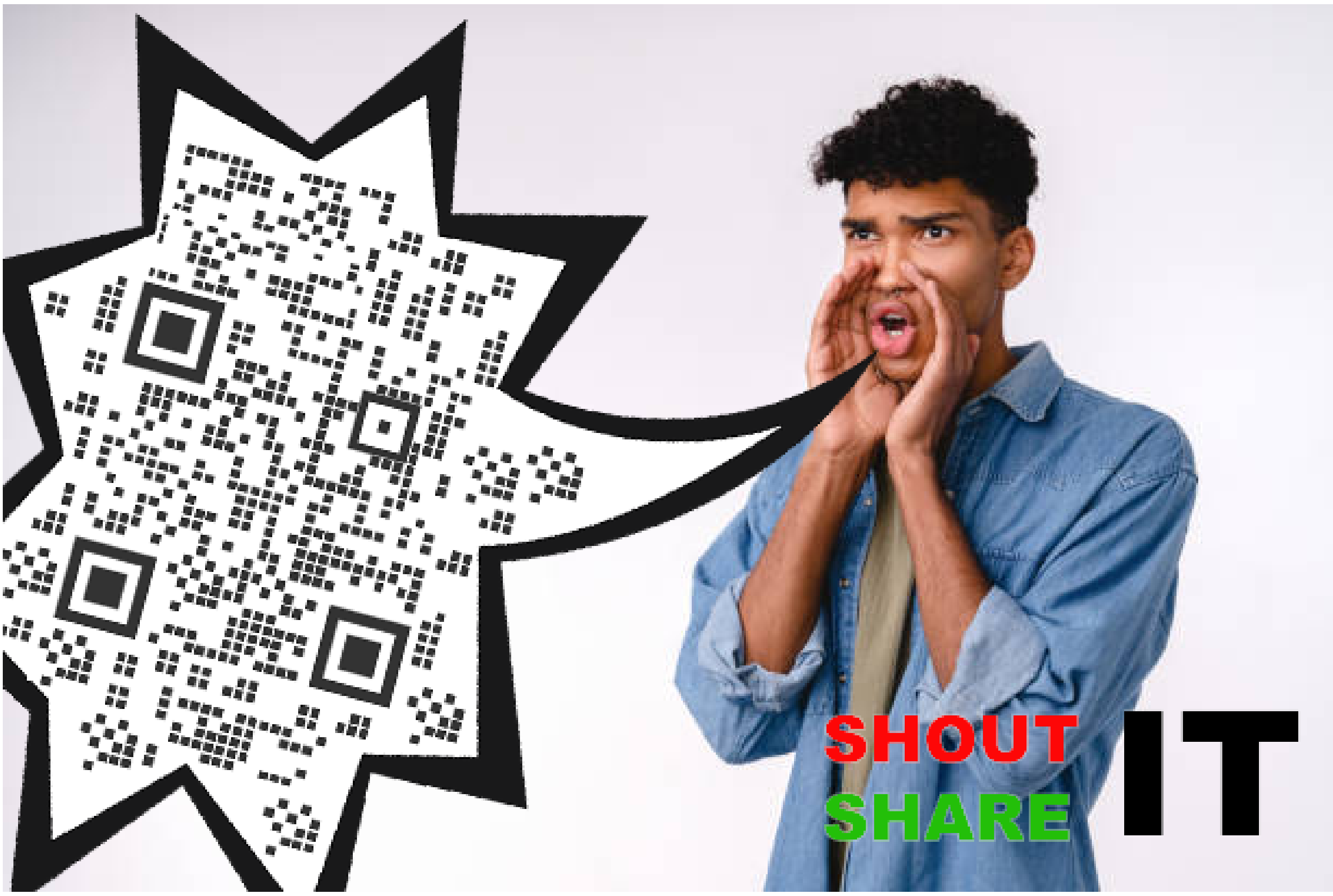
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BIRD - NOTES.

THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY.

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VOLUME IV—NEW SERIES.

> "*By mutual confidence and mutual aid,*
> *Great deeds are done and great discoveries made.*"

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.,

AUTHOR OF "AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE," ETC.

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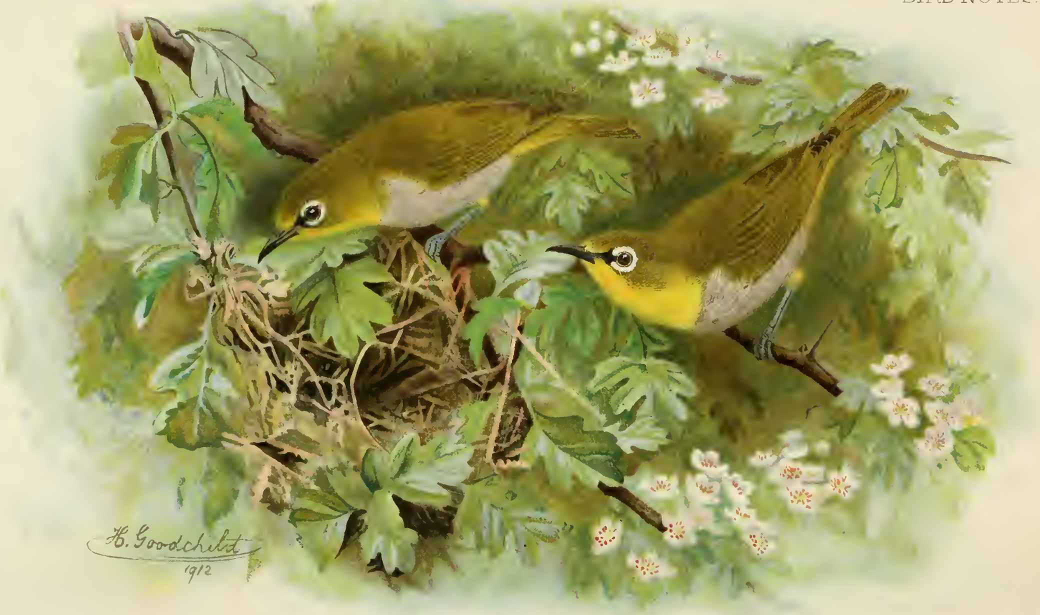
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THE INDIAN WHITE-EYE. Zosterops palpebrosa.
An episode in the Aviary of Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

White-eyes (Zosterops).

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

It is quite impossible for me to attempt an article on the genus *Zosterops*, as there are over ninety species and sub-species, and there are already too many series yet to be finished from my pen, and I must not undertake another. Possibly, however, a list of species with size and range may be useful. The species I am giving in the same order, as they appear in Brit. Mus. Cat., Vol. IX., they are as follows:

SPECIES	SIZE IN INCHES.	HABITAT.
cærulescens	4.6	Aust., N. Zealand, Chatham Islands.
albigularis	5.8	Norfolk Island.
tenuirostris	5.	Norfolk Island.
strenua	5.7	Lord Howe's Island.
westernensis	4.5	Aust., N. Caledonia, N. Hebrides, Lord Howe's, and Figi Islands.
*ramsay**	4.4	Palm Island, Torres Straits.
vatensis	5.3	Vate, New Hebrides.
inornata	5.3	Loyalty Islands.
aureifrons	4.5	Flores and Sumbawa.
pallida	4.7	S. Africa—along the Orange Riv. and extending into the Transvaal.
japonica	4.	Japan.
erythropleura	3.5	From S. Amoorland, extending throughout China to Moupin.
gouldi	4.3	Western Australia.
grayi	5.	Ké Islands, Moluccas.
aureiventer	3.4	From S. Tenasserim down the Malayan Pen. to Sumatra, Java and Timor.
everetti,	4.5	Phillipine Islands.
albiventer,	4.6	Cape Grenville and Islands of Torres Straits.
crissalis	4.	South-eastern New Guinea.
palpebrosa	4.	India—Himalayas to Ceylon, with the Laccadives; Burmese countries eastwards, into S. China; Andaman Is. and Nicobars.
subrosea	4.	Hankow, Central China.

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* Probably identical with *westernensis*.

SPECIES	SIZE IN INCHES.	HABITAT.
citrinella,	3.7	Island of Timor.
abyssinica,	4.	Abyssinia—northwards into Bogos Land, and South to Wadla, and Taranta, Is. of Socotra.
poliogaster	4.9	N.E. Africa.
anjuanensis,	4.8	Comoro group: Anjuan and Grand Comoro Is.
madagascariensis	4.2	Madagascar and Gloriosa Is.
capensis	4.2	S. Africa.
explorator	4.5	Fiji Is.
ceylonensis	4.5	Hills of Ceylon.
xanthochroa	4.3	New Caledonia.
griseiventer	4.5	Tenimber Is.
novæ guinea	4.2	New Guinea and Aru Is.; Ambonia and Ceram.
aureigula	5.3	Is. of Jobi, N.W. New Guinea.
atrifrons	4.2	Celebes.
atricapilla	4.3	Mount Singalan, Sumatra.
delicatula	4.	S.E. New Guinea; Aru Islands.
chrysolæma	4.	Arfak Mountains—N.W. New Guin.
fuscicapilla	3.7	Arfak Mountains—N.W. New Guin.
hypoxantha	3.7	New Britain.
flava	4.	Java, Sumatra and Borneo.
meyeni	3.9	Luzon, Philipine Is.
siamensis	4.	Siam, extending into Burmese countries.
senegalensis	3.6	All over S. Africa south of the Sahara, excepting the forest country of the West Coast, and the extreme southern portion of the continent.
kirki	3.7	Grand Comoro Is.
virens	4.7	S.E. Africa, extending north to the Zambesi.
eurycricotus	4.75	Foot of Maeru Mountn., Messai country, E. Africa.
lutea	4.	N. Australia.
semperi	3.8	Pelew Is., Eastern and Central Carolines.
chloris	4.7	Is. of Banda, Moluccas.
buruensis	4.4	Is. of Bouru, Moluccas.
intermedia	4.6	Celebes; Lombock; Ternate.
gallio	4.1	Java.
nigrorum	4.	Is. of Negros-Philipine Archipelago.
hypolais	4.	Is. of Uap, Mackenzie group.
oleagina	4.7	Is. of Uap, Mackenzie group.
conspicillata		Is. of Guam, Ladrones.
flavifrons	4.8	New Hebrides.
rendovæ	4.8	Is. of Rendova, Solomon Group.
gulliveri	4.2	Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria.
griseitincta	4.5	Louisiade Is.
longirostris	4.	Heath Is.
brunneicauda	4.75	Is. of Ceram, Lant, Choor, and the Aru Is.
uropygialis	4.4	Little Ké Is., Moluccas.
semiflava	4.	Seychelles.
mayottensis		Is. of Mayotte.

SPECIES	SIZE IN INCHES.	HABITAT.
chlorates	4.	Sumatra.
minuta	4.2	Lifu, Loyalty Islands.
olivacea	4.5	Is. of Bourbon or Réunion.
chloronota	4.	Mauritius.
modesta	4.2	Seychelles.
mauritiana	3.8	Mauritius.
borbonica,	4.5	Is. of Réunion or Bourbon.
javanica	4.7	Java.
fallax	5.2	Java and Sumatra.
finschii	4.5	Pelew Is.
cinerea	4.6	Kushai and Ualan Is.
ponapensis		Is. of Ponape.
melanops	4.8	Loyalty Is.
lugubris	4.8	W. Africa: Is. of St. Thomas in the Bight of Benin.
melanocephala	4.7	W. Africa: Cameroons district.
leucophæa	5.	W. Africa: Gaboon, Princes Is.
atriceps	4.7	Is. of Batchian in the Moluccas.
fuscifrons	4.25	Is. of Gilolo or Halmahera, in the Moluccas.
mysoriensis	4.25	Is. of Misori, N.W. New Guinea.
hypoleuca,	4.	New Guinea.
muelleri	5.3	Is. of Timor.
frigida	4.	Sumatra.
ficedulina	4.5	Prince's Is., W. Africa.

The above list is compiled from Vol. IX of the B.M.C., and the measurements, all probably taken from skins, may prove in many instances, to be a little larger than the living bird.

THE INDIAN WHITE-EYE: Our frontispiece depicts an episode in my aviary, in 1911, when the Indian White-eye (*Z. palpebrosa*), reared three young ones, two of which are still living. The plate is true to life, the branch of the tree was drawn on the spot, and Mr. Goodchild has aptly caught the position of the birds, as they hopped about, and cared for their family, and the plate in my opinion does credit both to the artist and the lithographer, and is, I hope, merely the forerunner of many others depicting similar scenes.

The charm and interest of these dainty sprites is beyond description, whatever feature one seeks to describe. In general demeanour and deportment they resemble the Gold-crested Wren and they are about the same size or very little larger. One can watch them almost for hours without tiring, first to see them, Creeper-like, examining bark and leaves, then swaying on a tall grass stem, then swooping (fluttering) to and fro, foraging on the wing, and again walking wrong side up on roof netting of flight in the eager search for small insect life; except for one short hour at mid-day, and for very short intermittent spells, this activity is kept up during the live-long day. When they do, for short spells, hop about a tree or bush, apparently without an object they are more charming still. While engaged in the duties of house building, incubating, or caring for a family, they are even more fascinating and when the little family leave the sheltering walls of "White-eye castle," the sight is bewitching indeed, and thus one could wander on, but the story has been already told (see B.N. Vol. II. N.S., p. 226), though for the benefit of new readers I will recapitulate the main facts, in a few, I fear very jerky sentences.

Nest containing three eggs discovered on the evening of June 27th (I deduce clutch only completed that day).

Three chicks hatched early morning July 7th.

Three fully-fledged birds left the nest July 17th (evening).

Young birds fending for themselves August 1st.

Callow Young: quite naked, pinkish flesh-colour and very minute (a lady visitor likened them to caterpillars).

Incubation period 10 to 11 days.

Nestling plumage, similar to adults, but not quite so intense, but did not get the white eye-rings till the twenty-fourth day after leaving the nest.

The eyes of the chicks were open on the morning of the fifth day.

For the first four days the young were fed entirely on small insects (blight, etc.), captured in the aviary; on the fifth day they accepted small mealworms, but killed these before feeding their young. On the morning of the tenth day they also began to feed with ripe fruit.

The parent birds carried out the fæces of the young in their bills, only dropping it when obscured by the foliage.

This species can certainly be wintered out of doors in Surrey without difficulty, and I think Miss Hawke has so kept one of the African species, but some of the species would need careful testing in this respect, some, I consider, would need the protection of four walls and a roof during the winter, and, unless put out in the early spring, all are best brought indoors for their first winter in this country but, can go out of doors in late April or early May and appear to be quite unharmed by the variations of our English spring.

They helped themselves to insectile mixture, ripe fruit, and milk-sop freely in my aviary, also capturing many insects and competed with the larger birds for mealworms, also occasionally taking a little seed, which they swallowed whole.

While the general plumage of all the species does not vary much, the distinctions principally consisting of a varying intensity, and placing of the brighter colour areas and lighter or warmer hues of the abdominal region, and size, but there are a few species which have somewhat striking variations from the general pattern, and these I give below :—

SPECIES.	NOTICEABLE VARIATIONS FROM THE COMMON COLOURATION: VIZ: YELLOW, GREEN, OLIVE, AND GREYS.
fuscicapilla	Crown of head black.
hypoxantha	Ear-coverts blackish.
siamensis	Dusky spot in front of eye.
uropygialis	Head dusky, entire undersurface yellow.
brunneicauda	Dusky spot in front of eye; flight and tail feathers brown.
semiflava	Washed with reddish-brown on lower back and rump; primary-coverts, primaries, and tail feathers black with yellow margins.
mayottensis	Under surface citron-yellow; flanks brownish-red; tail- and wing-feathers blackish with greenish-yellow margins; bill indigo-blue.
chlorates	Very similar, but with dusky spot in front of, and a dusky line below the eye.
minuta	Conspicuous white tuft on the flanks.
mauritiana	Cheeks, throat and underparts white, no ring of feathers round the eye, dusky spot in front of eye, rump and upper tail coverts white.
borbonica	Slaty-grey above; no white ring round the eye, rump white; larger wing and tail feathers dusky blackish.
javanica	Broad white eye-brow and white streak below the eye; otherwise similar to *fallax*.
fallax	Lores and forehead white, larger wing- and tail-feathers dusky.
finschii	Mostly ruddy-brown; cheeks, throat, centres of breast and abdomen dull ashy.
cinerea	General colour ashy-grey; wings and tail brown; lores and narrow ring round eye grey.
ponapensis	Earthy brown above, wings and tail umber-brown; eye-ring silvery grey; lores, sides of head and underparts dirty ashy-grey.

SPECIES.	NOTICEABLE VARIATIONS FROM THE COMMON COLOURATION: VIZ: YELLOW, GREEN, OLIVE, AND GREYS.
melanops	Slaty-grey above, ashy-grey below; crown of head sooty-black; lores and patch below eye black; eye ring white.
melanocephala	Crown of head and nape blackish-brown; throat white; general body colouring dull ashy brown above and dusky ashy brown below.
leucophæa	Greyish brown above, greyish white below; larger wing- and tail feathers dark brown; crown of head whitish; ear-coverts and cheeks white.
atriceps	Dull yellowish-olive above, ashy-white below; larger wing- and tail feathers dusky brown; crown of head, nape, hind neck, forehead and ear-coverts sooty brown, under tail coverts bright yellow.
mysoriensis	Above olivaceous, below white; sides of neck and cheeks greyish; quills and tail feathers blackish; under tail-coverts pale yellow.
hypoleuca	Dull olive-green above, below white; larger wing- and tail-feathers dusky brown; lores black, merging into a black band below the white eye-ring.
muelleri	Above olive-greenish, below yellowish; quills and tail-feathers brown; lores and stripe above the eye yellow; eye-ring white; spot in front of eye black.
frigida	Brownish olivaceous above, dull yellowish below; crown yellowish spotted with black; indistinct white ring round eye.
ficedulina	Above olive green, below pale yellow; quills and tail-feathers dusky brown; top of head dusky olive-green; forehead with narrow white streaks.

By "general pattern" is meant an arrangement similar to the species figured on frontispiece, but this is very variable as to extent of colour areas, their placing, and the intensity of the respective hues.

White-eyes are equally delightful as cage-pets, if given a roomy cage, furnished with twiggy branches, but care must be taken that they do not become overfat, for they are little gourmands.

As regards their treatment, if supplied with a little of some good insectile mixture, ripe fruit, milk sop, and several live insects daily will suffice for their wants.

So far as the writer is aware only *Z. palpebrosa* has as yet been bred in captivity, while quite a large number of the species have not yet reached Great Britain alive.

There are no more charming birds imported than White-eyes, they are mostly of minute size, exquisite beauty, and attractive demeanour, and above all are not difficult to keep fit, once the critical period following importation has been passed. The story of their wild life has been told in back Vols of "B.N."

Nesting of the Black-headed Grosbeak.

(*Hedymeles melanocephalus*).

By W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

This large, distinctive and very handsome species is one of the most charming birds that an aviarist could desire. Larger than our Hawfinch, it is also far more brightly coloured, more reachy and stylish. The glossy black head, rich chestnut breast and the contrasted black and white areas of the wings of the male would make him a conspicuous object in any company or against any background, and his powerful, mellow, flute-like notes, which are heard both in the gloaming and at the dawn of day, are also a great attraction. Though a true Hawfinch, and armed with a formidable beak, he does not possess the detestable temper of the British representative of that family; also he will, like his near relative—the Rose-breasted Grosbeak—readily breed in captivity whereas a good many aviarists have, I think, come to the conclusion that our Hawfinch is not a particularly easy species to breed. I notice that even the remarkably sanguine aviculturists, who frequently write to the weekly press to tell us about the Canary-Yellowhammer and other wonderful hybrids, which they claim to have bred or are shortly going to breed, are discreetly silent on the subject of Hawfinch hybrids. Lastly let me add that this Grosbeak only comes on the market at long intervals and then in very small numbers.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak restricts itself chiefly, as a breeding species, to the Eastern States but the present species is a bird of Western America and is seen in summer in suitable localities from the Plains to the Pacific, wintering in Mexico. A friend of mine, who used to live in California, has several specimens in his collection, and tells me that it used to nest in a swamp near his house.

My pair built a large, untidy nest early this summer in the bare fork of an apple tree and laid two large eggs of a pale blue ground colour, boldly spotted with reddish-brown, with a few purplish maculations. The male sat quite as much, or perhaps more than, the female. All went well till a couple of days before the eggs were due to hatch when, with the object of discovering the best class of insect food for rearing the young, I supplied some mealworms and other dainties, with the unfortunate result that the male attacked the female most savagely, driving her up and down the aviary. During one of these scrimmages the eggs must have been kicked out for I picked them up the following day on the ground, one partly hatched and the other chipped (incubation period 12 days).

However, they soon made another attempt. This time the nest was constructed in an equally conspicuous position, on a horizontal bough of an apple-tree only six inches below the roof of netting. One of the charms of aviculture in this district is the Tawny Owls: out of a total of 45 birds in my breeding aviary this spring they either killed outright or maimed no less than fifteen. As showing how closely the Grosbeaks sat I may mention that the etcetera Owls snipped off the head of a Pipit just two feet from the nest (the exact spot being marked by the feathers adhering to the netting) one night, and yet the female must have stuck to her post for the eggs hatched. Incubation commenced on the 14th May (again only two eggs being laid) and the young hatched on the 27th.

They were at first thinly covered with long bluish grey down, and looked promising but on the following day one vanished or, shall I say, was translated to another sphere for, as usual, no trace was left—not even a short note to say, how, or why or when it departed. On the sixth day the survivor was showing flight feathers in the quill, and, as he was elsewhere (except for a little grey down on the back and crown)perfectly naked, it was not surprising to note that he seemed shivery and unhappy. On the tenth day he looked much more respectable, with a decent covering of dark feathers and showing some buff on the rump and wing coverts. On the thirteenth day the nest was empty, but, after a long search, I found my young friend snugly concealed in the thickest part of an Euonymus.

He soon began to follow his parents on the wing, and his curious mewing food-call (much resembling the distant wailing of a Herring Gull) was one of the features of the past summer. As showing how necessary it is to consider the habits of individual species individually, when awarding medals for breeding results, I may mention that the young bird was not quite independent in the matter of food *for two months after leaving the nest.*

Even when he left the nest his plumage was much brighter than that of an adult female and at once declared his sex. He died on the 19th of October, owing to not being supplied with insect food during the moult (these foreign Grosbeaks are not half so hardy as they look).

The following note was made on the 20th of October, and compares the young bird with the skin of an adult male in summer plumage :—"Breast bright chestnut, O.M. (old "male) much lighter—more orange-red; centre of breast grey-"ish, O.M. bright orange; across upper breast zone of black "spots, O.M. none; chin buff, O.M. black; crown black with "buff centre stripe, O.M. black; white superciliary stripe, "O.M. none; white stripe under lores, O.M. none; back dark "rufous with bold black striations, O.M. dull orange with "ditto; rump dark rufous, O.M. orange; tail dark rufous-"brown, O.M. black with white inner margins to lower half, "white bar on primaries and coverts much duller and smaller; "feet dark bluish-black, O.M. same."

The Breeding of Grey-headed x Cape Sparrows.

(*Passer diffusus* + *P. arcuatus*).

By Gerald E. Rattigan.

Many keen disappointments as well as triumphs are the portion of the aviculturist, the former mostly predominating. Last year (1911) after several failures, owing to the intolerance of these birds of any interference with their nesting arrangements, such notes as I was then able to secure I have unfortunately mislaid.

Two young were hatched, however, and were fending for themselves, when they were both murdered by another species of Sparrow inhabiting the same aviary.

In the earlier portion of the past season (1912) the same lack of success dogged the efforts of these two birds, arising from the same cause, and the net result of repeated attempts is one young bird fully reared (now in mature plumage), a male.

I will commence with a description of the plumage of this young bird: Crown of head bluish-grey; nape and mantle washed with olive-brown; wing coverts, lower back, rump, and upper tail coverts bright chestnut; flights brown; tail-feathers brown with darker margins; underparts greyish-white washed with brown; beak darkish horn-colour; feet light brown; iris brown.

From the above it will be seen that the young hybrid is almost a replica of its male parent and shows none of the striking black and white plumage of the Cape Sparrow.

In size, the young hybrid is a little smaller than its male parent.

Re Breeding operations: I have found it quite impossible to obtain strictly accurate notes as to the period of incubation and nestling plumage, for as I have already mentioned, the slightest interference or noticed inquisitiveness on my part caused either the devouring, or instant desertion of their eggs, and in the case of young, unless over four days old, close observation resulted in infanticide.

Thus it was impossible for me to *definitely* ascertain when incubation actually commenced or terminated, the latter I could only ascertain by hearing the young call for food, and the former by there only being one bird about at a time —I can only compute the incubation period by methods as above at fourteen days [12 to 13 days is the average period for *Passer*.—Ed]. The young left the nest three weeks after they were first heard calling for food.

In nestling plumage they closely resemble the House Sparrow, but are smaller.

The young in every instance were reared on insectile mixture, mealworms, and live ants' eggs, though probably they could be reared entirely on a good insectile mixture [animal food looms largely in the diet of fledgeling Sparrows in a state of nature.—Ed.].

The old birds like all Sparrows were devoted parents and watched over their young with jealous care, setting furiously on and putting to ignominious flight any bird, however large or powerful, that attempted to approach too closely to their nest.

The nest was a dome-shaped structure of hay, lined with feathers and moss—I have written "lined," but *packed* would be the better term, as the quantity of feathers, etc., they managed to stow away in a comparatively small space was almost uncanny. They have used a coco-nut husk as a nest receptacle, also a sort of miniature dovecote, and also constructed a nest amid the branches, but, wherever placed the pattern was invariably the same.

The clutch varied from three to four but, only two hatched out on the first occasion, and one at the last. The colour of the eggs is palish green, blotched with large brown and smaller lavender spots and streaks.

The parent birds continued to feed the young one for about five weeks after it had left the nest, after which period, I caught and caged the young one separately.

Some Interesting Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. Illustrated from Life, by H. Willford,

The Black-winged Grackle (*Graculipica melanoptera*). As will be seen from Mr. Willford's most successful photograph, this species is a striking and handsome one. It is also a bird of some character, and some specimens, at any rate, become very tame and absolutely fearless. It is an inhabitant of Java and the Island of Madura, and is about the size of a Starling.

Description. Adult Male: Except for the wings and tail this fine bird is pure silky white, slightly tinted with pale buff on the crown, rump, thighs and under tail-coverts ; bastard primary glossy black ; quill- and tail-feathers glossy greenish-black, the latter tipped with white ; bill and feet yellow, as also is a bare space round the eye ; iris white. Total length 9 inches, tail 3.

Female : Similar, but slightly smaller.

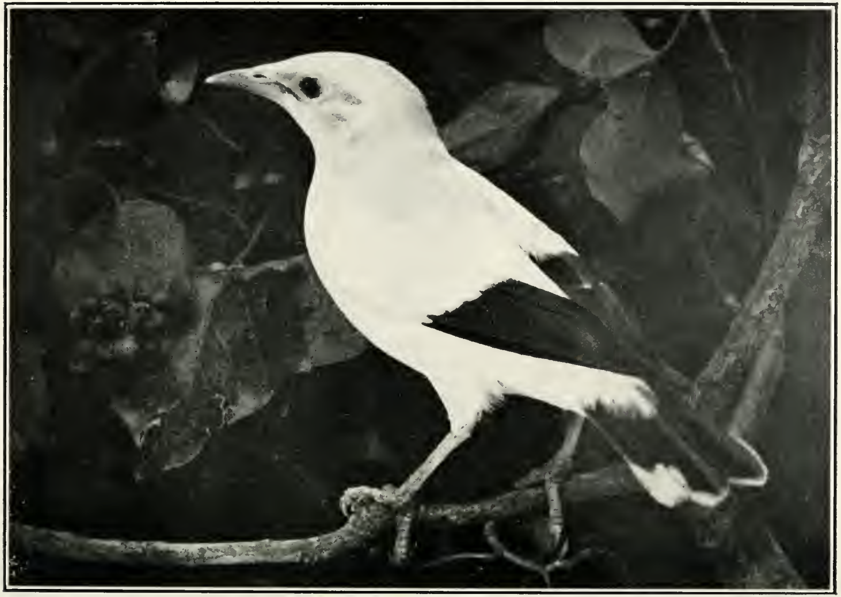
With birds of character, there is much individuality in respective pairs, thus it is difficult to make any definite pronouncement as to their amiability towards smaller species, but, I saw a pair in Mr. Sutcliffe's aviary some two years ago, and they had been there for some months, and did no harm in a series consisting of Flycatchers, Warblers, Waxbills, Finches, Weavers and Buntings, also agreeing with a pair of White-throated Laughing-Thrushes which were included in the series, and most interesting birds they were, busy, inquisitive, yet not annoying the other occupants that I could observe, and Mr. Sutcliffe informed me they had proved quite harmless—unfortunatly an epidemic shortly afterwards decimated this series, thus a lengthened experience cannot be given, and so far we have no data at all how they would behave in a mixed series when nesting.

Mr. Willford's pair of birds, I saw several times during the past year in their roomy enclosure, and a fine sight they were too, especially when seen on the wing, swooping from end to end of the flight—their flight was undulating and the rapidity of their movements, suddenly sweeping from right to left, or *vice versa*, checking their flight and returning on their track with a dexterity little short of marvellous, was most interesting and fascinating to me, on the occasions I have had them under observation.

I had a fairly long acquaintance with a specimen in the Western Aviary at the Zoo, which was absolutely without fear, and simply used any and every visitor who entered his enclosure as some new kind of perching apparatus, inquisitively hopping from shoulder to shoulder, hand to hand or arm to arm, inquisitively poking its sharp bill into pocket or crevice and was not the least averse to being handled—this is the bird from which the above description of the plumage was taken. This bird was a great attraction to those present at our Members' Meetings at the Zoo ; alas it is now no more.

I have not been able in the time at my disposal to glean any notes of its wild life.

As regards treatment in captivity, if caged, its cage must be



Black-winged Grackle. *Photo by H. Willford.*

a roomy one, and as regards diet, it should be supplied with Insectile mixture (soft food), ripe fruit and live insects, and like nearly all the STURNIDÆ it does not disdain to help itself to seed and grain. Unless the aviary be large enough to provide some live prey, live food should be regularly supplied—beetles, grasshoppers, spiders, worms, smooth caterpillars and smooth larvæ and pupæ generally, will all help to satisfy its somewhat huge appetite and tend to its general well being.

(*To be Continued*).

Notes re Picui and other Doves.

By E. F. M. Elms.

The following extracts from my aviary log-book may possibly prove of interest to some of our members.

1911. On June 20th, I bought a pair of small doves in Covent Garden, the name of which the dealer did not know, neither did I. On July 1st I left home for four weeks, and soon after I received a letter from my man, stating that the smallest Doves in the aviary had two eggs in a hanging basket. Since my purchase I procured a copy of Miss Alderson's book on "Foreign Doves," and by its aid I was enabled to identify my recent acquisition as Picui Doves (*Columbula picui*). They are quarrelsome birds, and the Zebra and Barbary Doves have rather a rough time of it with them.

On my return I was gratified to find two plump young Picuis just ready to leave the nest, which was in the worst possible place, the young being very likely to land in the duck-pond and sure enough this happened with one of them, but fortunately I was there to fish it out. On July 29th the hen Picui was again sitting on two eggs and as I was afraid that the young birds would not be reared, I cut down the nest and put the eggs under a Barbary hen [I have found it best to let Picui and Diamond Doves take their own course, the young are usually reared, often as many as five or six pairs in the one season.—Ed.]; though the eggs have been removed I have not been able to detect any inclination on the part of the hen to feed her babies. The parents have not been very pleasant to their progeny, for my man, Timson, says he saw them turn the young ones out of the nest and in the evening I found them on the hard floor, and fearing that the Pheasants or Ducks would trample on them or otherwise maltreat them, I fixed them up in a less dangerous place but they would not stay there long.

August 2: Young Picuis again out of the box--parents trying to go to nest again. Hen Barbary taking kindly to the alien eggs.

August 3: Young Picuis getting stronger. I have again attempted to thwart their notions of nest building by removing the nest basket, hoping they would look after their youngsters better, but it would seem that once the old Doves started nesting again, they think of nothing else, least of all their progeny.

August 4: A somewhat eventful day—the parent Picuis again building, the hen dropped an egg from a perch. The young Picuis, especially one, are very frisky and can fly.. I picked them up and put them in a box for the night, later they were both out again, one on the floor in the straw and the other floating in the glazed sink, but except for a thorough wetting, it seemed none the worse, however, it died two days later. I have now caged them in the small birds' house.

Aug. 13: The old Picuis have another nest and are incubating a pair of eggs. The sitting bird does not mind one's close approach, but, will not tolerate being handled like a Barbary.

Aug. 15: One of the Picui eggs under the Barbary has hatched.

1912: Practically no casualties during the winter, which for 10 days was very severe. The Picuis, four in all, looked rather fluffed out, but came through the weather well.

Presumably the two young Picui Doves reared in 1911 are both cocks, for one has formed an alliance with a hen Barbary, but, though everything went smoothly with them and three clutches of eggs were laid in the respective nests, all the eggs proved infertile—the strange point being that the other Picui proved to be a hen, for she has laid an egg, which she incubates intermittently. Strange these two—brother and sister—did not pair. It was rather ludicrous to see so small a husband with so large a wife, and it is comical to see him doing Doves Day Duty sitting on those two large eggs in that large basket.

April 20: My original pair of Picuis have begun building operations to-day (very warm), choosing a ledge near the roof. All day the hen has been squatting on the ledge, and the cock briskly foraging for materials, which he carries up and invariably settles on the hen's back or to the rear of her, laying the material round her form; in a few minutes he flies off for more, while she works the material into shape, and a very good shape, too, especially for a Dove. The completed structure, a tidy, fairly well shaped cup and almost invariably lined with a few feathers.

May 1st: Had from Gamage's two pairs of Doves, both are new to me; one pair being Cape (*Æna capensis*) and the others called by the seller Bronze-spotted Doves, I could not find them in Miss Alderson's book,* but on looking through Dr. Hopkinson's "Birds of Gambia," I am enabled to identify them as Rufous-winged Doves (*Chalcopelia afra*). I don't think they are a true pair for I have now (Dec., 1912) had them six months, they have made no attempt to nest, nor yet uttered a single note. They are both in faultless condition [The hen is said to be more vinous below, bill dark brown, with no yellow tip, and the wing spots not so dark a green as those of the male.—Ed.].

I have got rid of some of my Barbarys and put in two White Javas—this change of course breaking up the union of the young Picui, with the hen Barbary.

The adult Picuis have nested again, only one egg this time, a young bird was hatched on the 19th, but it disappeared on the 26th.

June 27: The Picuis have gone to nest again, using the same nest, only one of their two eggs hatched, and the young bird left the nest for the first time to-day (July 20th), and on the 21st, it was flying all round the aviary.

During August the Picuis again nested and hatched out and fully reared one young bird, making six in all.

December 14: The White Java Doves have two newly hatched young in a box.

Some of the young Picuis have attempted to nest, but

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*Miss Alderson's book only covers the species she has kept.—Ed.

I think the Cardinals amuse themselves by purloining material and pulling the nests to pieces.

I also have a Zebra and two Senegal Doves (all cocks) in the same aviary. I must get mates for them next year and try my luck.

* * *

The Food of Nestling Birds.

By Walter E. Collinge, M.Sc., F.L.S., F.E.S.

[Reprinted from "The Journal of the Board of Agriculture," September, 1912—p. 460, with thanks for kind permission.—Ed.].

It is a well-known fact that nestlings consume during the first few days of their life considerably more than their own weight of food per day, making a daily gain in weight of from 20 to even 50 per cent. During this period feeding commences before sunrise and continues until after sunset. The number of meals taken during this period is very large. Dr. Clarence M. Weed* records that in the case of the Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella socialis*) the total number of visits paid by the parent birds, bringing food, in a day amounted to nearly 200. Dr. S. D. Judd,† writing of the House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon*) states "that nestlings are fed very frequently, and consume an enormous quantity of food, is well shown by a half-day's observation," made by him on June 17th, 1899. He watched the feeding of a brood of three. "The family was found housed in a cavity in a locust tree, and was transferred to a baking-powder can, which was nailed to the trunk of the tree four feet above the ground, a convenient height for observation. The young were about three-fourths grown." The mother wren made 110 visits in four hours and thirty-seven minutes. On the following day similar observations were made, and in three hours and five minutes the young were fed 67 times. Newstead‡ has also given details for the Starlings as follows :—

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*Bull. No. 55, New Hampshire Agric. Exp. Stat., 1898.

† "The Food of Nestling Birds," *Year-book, U.S. Dept. Agric.*, 1900; pubd. 1901.

‡ The Food of Some British Birds, *Supplement to the Journal* Dec. 1908 p. 58.

During fifty-five consecutive minutes ..	20 visits
Between 3.50 and 7.55 p.m. ………	25 „
During six and a-half hours …………	79 „
„ six and a-quarter hours ……	45 „

Thus, "during a total period of 17 hours, representing approximately the hours of one day during which food was collected for the young, 169 journeys were made to the nest." This is in all probability much under the average.

Our knowledge of the nature and amount of food consumed by nestling birds is as yet very meagre. The subject is an important one, for many birds that in the adult condition feed upon both animal and vegetable matter, feed their young almost entirely upon insects, worms, and slugs. Indeed, from the nature of the structure of the stomach of a newly-hatched bird it may be generally concluded that most birds (excluding aquatic and raptorial species) feed their young on soft food, which largely consists of insects, slugs, spiders, and worms.

The following observations have been made :—

(i) In the case of the Starling and House Sparrow, from behind a curtained window. Many of the birds alighted on the window-sill before entering their nest, or lodged upon the outside projecting beams beneath the roof. With the aid of a pair of field glasses (and more often without) the nature of the food could be quite easily made out;

(ii) from examination of the fæces of the nestlings; and

(iii) from an examination of the stomach contents of 179 nestlings of the Starling, House Sparrow, Song Thrush, and Blackbird.

I.—FIELD OBSERVATIONS.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris, Linn.*).

Observations were made on May 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, and 26th. On the first four dates the numbers of visits were counted for sixty minutes, and were as follows:—38, 36, 32, 28; a series of counts made on May 27th gave the following results:—28, 28, 27, 26, the average working out at 32.2 visits per hour. On May 11th, the first visits commenced soon after 4 a.m., and continued until noon, when they became less frequent, and between 12-30 and 2-30 p.m. only about 25 visits were made. The number of visits again rose, and visits averaging approximately 26 per hour were made until 6 p.m., when the numbers became gradually less, and ceased at 7.50 p.m. Thus, presuming that for 12 hours of the day an average number of visits amounting to 25 per hour was maintained, and half that number during 4 hours, we have the enormous total of 350 visits paid to the nest by the parent birds.

On May 11th, 12th, 18th, and 26th, careful notes were made at different periods of the day of the nature of the food, and these are given below.

May 11th, 10.30 to 11.15 a.m.—Fourteen visits were made to the nest, food being brought on each occasion. This consisted of 5 slugs (3 *Arion hortensis,* Fer., and 1 *Agriolimax agrestis,* Linn.); 3 earthworms; 3 wireworms; 2 larvæ of the Great Yellow Underwing Moth (*Triphaena pronuba,* Linn.); a number of small beetles, too small to be identified, 3 larvæ of Crane Fly; 2 pieces of bread.

May 12th, 10-15 to 11-15 a.m.—Thirty-two visits were made to the nest by the parent birds, and food was brought on thirty-one occasions. The following were identified:—18 larvæ of the Great Yellow Underwing Moth (*Triphaena pronuba,* Linn.), 16 slugs (12 *Arion hortensis,* Fer., and 4 *Agriolimax agrestis,* Linn.); 8 small earthworms; several small beetles; 2 spiders, 3 wireworms; a number of Dipterous larvæ.

May 18th.—At various times of the day fifty-two visits were observed, at each of which food was brought to the nest. The following were identified:—4 weevils (*Barynotus obscurus,* Fabr.); 3 wireworms; 15 larvæ of the Great Yellow Underwing Moth; many small Geometrid larvæ; 4 larvæ of Crane Fly; 4 earthworms; 10 slugs (*Arion hortensis,* Fèr.); 2 pieces of meat.

May 26th.—Forty-eight visits were observed The following food was identified:—6 large Noctuid larvæ; 8 larvæ of Crane Fly; 4 wireworms; number of small beetles; 11 slugs (8 *Arion hortensis.* Fér.; and 3 *Agriolimax agrestis,* Linn.); 3 earthworms; 2 spiders; bread and kitchen garbage on 5 occasions.

Thus on 146 visits the following food was conveyed to the nest:—61 insect larvæ; a large number of small beetles; 18 earthworms; 42 slugs; 4 spiders; and various Dipterous larvæ, bread, &c. The whole fairly represents the food collected during the period of half a day.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*, Linn.).

The numbers of visits were counted for periods of sixty minutes on May 12th, 18th, 26th, and 27th, and were as follows:—20, 22; 18, 20; 20, 22; 20, 22, the average working out at 20.2 visits per hour. The visits on one day commenced just after 4 a.m., and continued until 7-30 p.m. The number of visits daily is probably something between 220 and 260.

Observations were made on various dates of 84 visits to the nest, and the following were identified:—12 larvæ of the Winter Moth (*Cheimatobia brumata*, Linn.); 15 beetles (*Phyllobius*. sp.); 3 ladybird beetles; large number of small Dipterous larvæ; number of small Dipterous flies; 2 spiders; on 23 occasions bread, potato, and other kitchen refuse.

Song Thrush (*Turdus musicus*, Linn.).

Observations made on the number of visits paid by the parent birds to the nest during four consecutive hours gave the following results :—22, 24, 18, 15.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*, Linn.).

A similar count to the above was made on five different occasions, extending over one hour each. The numbers of visits were 26, 24, 20, 22, 20.

II.—EXAMINATION OF FAECES OF NESTLINGS.

Large quantities of the encapsuled fæces of young Starlings were collected and subjected to careful examination. The results obtained are of interest in that they confirm the observations made on the nature of the food brought to the nest by the parent birds.

The fæces collected and examined during the first ten days gave but poor results, and would seem to point to the fact that worms, slugs, and quite soft food formed the bulk of the food during that period. The following materials were identified :—5 wing cases of beetles; 8 pieces of wings of some Dipterous insect; 14 heads of Lepidopterous larvæ; 1 remains of wireworm.

The fæces collected and examined later showed the following remains :—1 wing case of ground beetle (*Pterostichus madidus*, Fabr.); 19 legs of various small beetles; 1 wing case of ladybird beetle; 23 wing cases of weevils; 27 heads of Lepidopterous larvæ; parts of 5 wireworms; half of centipede (*Geophilus longicornis*); fragments of plant remains; grit.

III.—Examination of Stomach Contents.

The stomach contents of 179 nestlings have been carefully examined. These consisted of 94 Starlings, 42 Sparrows, 20 Thrushes, and 23 Blackbirds.

It is unnecessary to set forth in detail the contents of each individual stomach, and the contents of each species are therefore summarised as follows :—

Starling.—94 examples:—

May 20th.—Twenty specimens received. The food contents identified were: 8 larvæ of the Great Yellow Underwing Moth; 8 larvæ of the Winter Moth; 9 small Lepidopterous larvæ; parts of 5 wireworms; wing cases and legs of 3 beetles; few small Dipterous larvæ; 3 spiders; remains of slugs; few pieces of earthworms; bread in all cases.

May 23rd.—Fourteen specimens received. The food contents identified were: 5 larvæ of the Great Yellow Underwing Moth; 8 small Lepidopterous larvæ; many small Dipterous larvæ; remains of 9 slugs (*Arion hortensis*, Fér.); few pieces of earthworms; bread and vegetable matter present in 12 cases.

May 25th.—Sixteen specimens received. The food contents identified were: 8 larvæ of Great Yellow Underwing Moth; 9 larvæ of the Winter Moth; 5 wireworms; 7 wing cases of weevils (*Barynotus obscurus*, Fabr.); few Fungus Gnats; 3 spiders; 2 centipedes; remains of 5 slugs; few pieces of earthworms; bread, meat, and vegetable matter present in 7 cases.

May 28th.—Twenty-two specimens received. The food contents identified were: 5 larvæ of the Great Yellow Underwing Moth; 7 small Lepidopterous larvæ; 8 wireworms; 11 wing cases of weevils (*Barynotus obscurus*, Fabr.); various small Dipterous flies; 2 spiders; 1 centipede; remains of 11 slugs (*Arion hortensis*, Fér.); 7 partly digested earthworms (*Allolobophora chlorotica*, Sav.); bread, meat and vegetable matter present in 15 cases.

May 29th.—Twenty-four specimens received. The food contents identified were: 6 larvæ of the Great Yellow Underwing Moth; 10 larvæ of the Winter Moth; 9 wireworms; wing cases, legs, and other remains of 23 beetles; 3 spiders; 1 slug (*Arion hortensis*, Fér.); 9 earthworms (*Allolobophora chlorotica*, Sav.); bread, meat and vegetable matter present in 19 cases.

SPARROW.—42 examples.

21 larvæ of the Winter Moth; 3 small Lepidopterous larvæ; 19 wing cases of beetles; 7 wing cases of ladybird beetle; 33 wings of small Dipterous fly; 4 spiders; bread, meat, rice grains and vegetable matter present in 39 cases.

THRUSH.—20 examples:—

1 larva of Noctuid moth; 3 wireworms; remains of earthworms and slugs in all cases; 4 spiders; vegetable matter and soil in all cases.

BLACKBIRD.—23 examples—

Remains of 17 earthworms and 9 slugs; 3 wireworms; fragments of wing cases of beetles; large amount of vegetable matter present in all cases; bread and grain present in 7 cases.

As has been pointed out by Dr. Judd, practically all birds. excepting Doves and Pigeons, feed their young upon an animal diet, whatever may be the character of the food of the adult. Only continued observation will ultimately place us in possession of the nature and amount of food eaten by nestlings, and such information must ultimately prove of great value to all concerned with the raising of crops, whether fruit, general farm, or horticultural.

In conclusion, "it should be remembered that the nestling season is also that when the destruction of injurious insects is most needed, that is, at the period of greatest agricultural activity and before the parasitic insects can be depended on to reduce the pests." A knowledge, therefore, of the nature of the food, the amount consumed, and the relation this bears, from an economic standpoint, to the harm done by some species when adult, is no longer a question of interesting curiosity on the part of the bird-lover, but one that has a definite bearing on the success or failure of the produce of the land.

[We would point out, that the foregoing is not out of place, in our pages, for a careful reading of the above should prove very helpful to the aviculturist, when having broods of young, of any of the genera referred to, in his aviary and prove a useful guide as to what to supply, etc.

We would also point out, that Doves and Pigeons must not be excluded from the list of those species which supply an animal or partially animal diet to their fledgelings. On many occasions the writer has seen Diamond and other Doves, break up and swallow worms. then go and feed their progeny. This applies equally to domestic pigeons, we will only cite one case from the writer's personal observation—the particular pigeons were let out early in the morning, as soon as they returned, they were shut in till the afternoon, when, they were allowed a similar period of liberty: after these flights the writer has frequently cleansed away from the base of the beaks of the squabs portions of slugs and earth-worms, proving conclusively that a portion of their meal at least, had consisted of animal food—that they can be reared without it is a well-known fact, but, I would also clearly state, that the percentage of loss among young which got some animal food was almost nil, both while under the care of their parents and during the latter stages, before full maturity was reached. The writer would further add that some hybrid Turtle + Barbary Doves frequently pick up and devour a mealworm. and that the eating of earthworms is quite common with almost all species of Doves, and Pigeons in captivity.——Ed.].

How I became a Lover of Birds.

By Otto Puck.

I was in my sixth year, when one fine March morning (there had been a heavy fall of snow during the night) my nurse called out, "Otto, come to the window, quick, the Starlings have arrived, they are fighting the Sparrows, and have turned them out of the box." "Starlings!" What were Starlings? I had a vague idea that in connection with Sparrows it must be a bird, but till then my attention had never been drawn to one. Quickly I was at the window, and then I beheld on the window-sill a fine cock Starling in its pristine beauty, the freshly fallen snow setting off well its pink feet, lustrous purple-black plumage and golden beak. He did not seem to mind my presence much, but after a while disappeared into the box, hung below the window, followed by its more sombre clad mate, whilst the Sparrows got on top of the box, chirping out defiance. I may here incidentally remark that the box, a long oblong one with a hole in front, and a stick for the birds to perch on, had been hung up by my father, for the express purpose of inducing the the Starlings to nest therein. During the winter Sparrows made it a sleeping retreat, but in spring they were regularly driven out by Starlings—as time went on the heat of the the sun increased, and Aconites, Snowdrops, etc., proclaimed the advent of spring, but there were more falls of snow, sharp frost, and food scarce, and on some mornings they would sit on the snow-covered branches of a Sycamore tree, not far from the house, all in a lump, trying to get some comfort from the warming rays of the sun. However, by the end of March the gardener became busy among the rose-beds, uncovering the dwarfs and standards protected by matting against the severity of winter, and delightedly I watched the Starlings busy among the litter, securing bountiful supplies of grubs and worms. The male bird particularly rivetted my attention, for he would pick up a long piece of bass, flutter up to the box, and disappear with it inside, then he would come out and from the top of the box, utter all sorts of unmusical notes and calls and flap his wings, etc., to attract his mate. She was not responsive, but after a time, joined him, but even then, with the inborn shyness of her sex, would not immediately follow him into the dark unknown of the interior. She would perch at the furthest end of the stick, gradually drawing nearer, and then before entering, measure carefully with her beak the circumference of the hole to make certain it was just right, and the box safe against intruders.

Having convinced herself that all seemed safe, and approved of the nesting site, chosen by her lord and master, she would follow him into the box, there would be a scramble and noise going on inside, then out would dart the hen, the male in hot pursuit, they would rise in the air, there would be some apparent fighting, and they were mated. Now a busy time commenced, and both were soon busy in carrying nesting material into the box. By the end of April or early May the first egg, of lovely bluish tint, would appear, and by the middle of May there would be the first signs—egg-shells on the ground—of family cares. From morn till night both the parents would come and go to fill the gaping mouths with caterpillars and worms, and I wondered where they found all the supply of insect food. On leaving the box I noticed that the old birds carried out something white in their beaks, which they dropped outside, and my curiosity being aroused, I examined it and found it to be the excreta of the young—one of Nature's sanitary lessons. On being fed, the clamouring of the youngsters, as they grew, could be heard quite a distance off, and one fine morning, after a fortnight's rearing there would appear at the hole the head of a mouse-coloured bird, with a black beak, and eyes. It was a nearly fully-fledged youngster, and, when the old birds arrived, with beaks full of insects, the youngster would stretch its head fully out of the hole for the food, but the old bird would brush past him and go inside the box, so that his weaker brothers and sisters might also get their share. Some days after this the old birds, with beaks filled, would not fly at once to the box, but rest in the tree calling to the youngsters to come out, and then would come the morning when all was still, the box was empty, the youngsters had flown, and the adults had taken them to fields and pastures new, teaching them how to cater for themselves

After making these observations, and having added a year or two to my experience, my desire was to possess such a box to rear Starlings in of my own. The first was a failure, but I kept at it till I was nearly twenty years old, giving many away also, that others might enjoy the pleasure of watching the domestic life of such species as used the boxes.

Our home being situated near a large Park and our garden well stocked with fruit trees running down to a river, it was not Starlings alone that claimed my attention. Our neighbourhood was a veritable, "Eldorado," of avifauna, and abounded in Finches and soft bills. Nightingales used to come on to our lawn, from the Park, in search of ants'-eggs. Fly-catchers nested in the grape-vine, Jenny Wrens in an old shed. and Chaffinches found nesting places galore in a row of young lime-trees in front of our house; then there were Blackcaps, White-throats, Garden Warblers, Melodius Warblers, etc.. No wonder that in such lovely surroundings I should take a keen interest in Nature and become fond of birds,, animals, fishes, and flowers. My father was an ardent gardener, and I have retained the culture and love of flowers to this day. But this is a digression. To return to the birds. I listened with joy to their song, and watched them build their nests, and how could he who has ever seen the beautiful structures of avian architecture, containing such lovely eggs forget them. The collecting of eggs was absolutely vetoed at home, and rightly, too. I must, however, plead guilty to this hobby, and secreted away a few unknown to my parents, but can safely say I never robbed birds of a whole clutch—just one egg only, when I found a nest with five—and so learned to distinguish the species by the colour of their eggs.

One night in the spring there had been a storm, and next morning I found a Chaffinch's nest blown to the ground, it was empty, but some chirping in the grass near by drew my attention, and I soon collected together four or five youngsters nearly fledged, put them with the nest into a small cage and hung same up against a wall. Soon after I had the satisfaction of seeing the old birds fly on top of the cage and feed the young. But what was my surprise when I found the ground strewn with wings of moths and beetles? Not until then was I aware that hardbills used insect-food in rearing their brood—first object lesson!

The young finches grew apace, but one day, to my dismay I found the cage door open and the birds gone. An "unkind" hand had opened the door; but I was told the birds themselves had done it, as it was cruel to keep them caged.

Nothing daunted, from the park my ramblings extended to the forest, and I had then made the acquaintance of an old bird-dealer and true lover of birds, who initiated me into the mysteries of handrearing; I seldom returned from my wanderings without having made some fresh discovery and carrying home some trophy or other might it be young Thrushes, Blackbirds, Goldfinches, Nightingales, all of which I learned to hand-rear successfully, and I often feel inclined to again take up this interesting phase of bird-keeping—but time and circumstances do not permit—I must be satisfied to tend adult specimens; and what higher award can there be to man's ambition when the efforts, care and attention bestowed upon his feathered pets are crowned by the well-being and song of such a bird as the Nightingale, the "King of Songsters."

I have kept most of our best songsters (softbills) in cages, and if the experience gained during nearly forty years might interest your readers, I will with pleasure pen a few notes on the keeping of softbills in cages.

We shall be pleased to have some notes on keeping softbills in cages.—Ed,

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that members from all round the coast will note the movement of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—*on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.*—Ed.

October 2 and 3. Flock of about 30 Bramblefinches seen feeding on Beech-mast, quite close to the house, together with a large number of Chaffinches. This is rather earlier than we usually see them. B.H.S., Ipswich.

November 4 and subsequently. Have observed Hedge Accentor with pure white tail—plumage otherwise normal.
B.H.S., Ipswich.

December 28. Saw an enormous flock of Starlings—sky quite dark with them and although at a considerable distance, the "swish" of their wings was plainly audible. There must have been several thousands—they were coming from their feeding grounds on the fields to a large plantation to roost. B.H.S., Ipswich.

Piebald Partridge: While out shooting in mid November a Piebald French Partridge fell to my gun. Its general plumage was normal, but the hinder portion of crown, nape and back of neck are almost pure white; wing coverts and back profusely speckled with white, and the three inner primaries of each wing also white; rump, upper tail coverts and centre of tail pure white. It has since been set up by Mr. Roland Ward and is a striking looking bird.
J.S.R., Leadenham, Lincs., 23/12/'12.

December has been rather a dull month here as regards bird movements, but I have noticed the following:

Redwings: Much more numerous than is usually the case in such a mild winter.

Tits: I have also noticed an increase in the number of Long-tailed and Marsh Tits; while Cole-Tits have apparently decreased.

January 1—3: During the past three days large flocks of Wild Geese have been feeding on the mud banks of the Solent.
P.G., Beaulieu, 4/1/'13.

December, 1912. I am wintering in Devon. This is a lovely county, especially for birds which prefer to winter here to crossing the Channel. In the fields and hedgerows are: Starlings, Magpies, Jackdaws, Rooks, Tits, Robins, Chaffinches, Fire-crests, Fieldfares, Thrushês, and Blackbirds. In the estuaries are: Herons, Bitterns, Herring Gulls, Kittiwakes, Shags, and Coromants. All these I have seen, and even a Razor-bill Gull on a rock out at sea; probably one waiting for death. D.L., Salcombe, Devon.

In December "B.N." we omitted to give a list of the contributors to this Calendar; they are as follow:—

E.F.C.—Miss E. F. Chawner.
P.F.M.G.—P. F. M. Galloway.
H.G.—H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.
P.G.—Dr. P. Gosse, M.B.O.U.
W.T.P.—Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.
J.S.R.—Captain J. Sherard Reeve, F.Z.S.
R.S.—R. Suggitt.

Editorial.

List of Breeding Species: Mr. W. E. Teschemaker informs me that we have misquoted him re breeding Paradise Whydahs, as he did not succeed in breeding this species. Also further research proves that Grenadier Weaver (*E. sundevalli* s.p., and *E. oryx*) are duplicate entries, as these are not now recognised as distinct, therefore two records must be struck off our list, *viz*:—

Paradise Whydah (*Steganura paradisea*).
Grenadier Weaver (*Euplectes sundevalli*—sub. sp.).

Re the Grenadier Weaver record. The record given in our list of Medals awarded in December issue must stand, as the previous record by the late Herr Wiener was quite unobserved, and *unobserved results* are not eligible for our list. We quote as follows from Cassell's "Canaries and Cage Birds," page 406: "A very rare local variety of Grenadier Weavers, "viz., the *Euplectes sundevalli*, bred in my aviary without my "knowledge, and I was not aware that they had been incu-"bating until two young birds were flying about. How these "young birds, almost as large as a Bullfinch, had room with "their mother in the nest I have never been able to make "out." We do not give medals for unobserved results. Time does not permit us to say more in this issue re Breeding Medal Rules, but in our next issue we will explain in detail the Regulations published on pages 73 and 74 of green paper inset in last volume.

BLUE BUDGERIGARS : Our member, Mr. W. R. Fasey, has a flock of 12 of this variety flying in one of his aviaries, being a comparatively recent acquisition from the Continent, and some are already evincing a desire of going to nest.

NEW BIRDS AT THE ZOO : Arrivals are not usually numerous at this season, but among them are two species new to the collection, viz., Mahali Weaver Birds *(Plocepasser mahali)*, a South African species: from the Orange River to Damara Land on the west, and Matabela Land on the east (B.M.C.) Above it is light brown, with the lower back, rump and upper tail-coverts white ; the wings are variegated with dark brown, blackish, a white bar crossing each wing ; the quills are dark brown with light brown margins ; tail feathers, dark brown, with light margins and white tips ; crown of head, lores, eye region and cheeks black ; eye-brow white ; throat white ; remainder of under surface pale buffish brown, lighter on the abdomen and ventral region, sides of body and flanks, darker brown. It is a largish species, about as large as the Rufous-necked Weaver. Also a Pink-browed Rose-finch (*Propasser rhodochrous*), this species, though new to the Zoo, has been in the possession of private aviculturists at any rate since 1908, if not earlier. In 1908 Capt. Perreau (now major), imported some which passed into the possession of Messrs. W. E. Teschemaker and W. T. Page, in 1911 a few more were brought over by Lieut. G. Kennedy which went to Mr. H. Willford, and as the Zoo specimen was presented by Mr. W. H. St. Quintin, there have been arrivals from other sources—the species has been described in past Vols. of B.N., to which we refer our readers.

Among other arrivals at the Zoo are :-- 2 Black-shouldered Tanagers (*C. melanonota*), 2 Sepoy Finches (*H. sipahi*). Slaty-headed Parrakeet (*P. schisticeps*), all presented by our member Mr. A. Ezra. Another notable arrival is a Nepalese Eagle-Owl *Huhua nipalensis*).

Photo by E. O. Page.

Pink-browed Rosefinch, eating seeding grass from the hand in the aviary of W. T. Page.

Correspondence.

FOR THE UTMOST HAPPINESS OF CAGED BIRDS.

SIR,—Birds are endowed with superabundant energy* which finds expression in flying, flitting, swimming, diving, wading, walking, hopping, perching, climbing, creeping, mimicking, singing, or croaking. Those that have been bred in captivity for generations may, in course of time, lose most of the original characteristics of their species, and acquire others possibly better suited to confinement. Fledgelings taken from the nest and made pets of, also become artificial, but pent-up inherent energy must find utterance. The Canary trolls songs unknown to its progenitors; the Parrot, Mynah and Magpie imitate human speech; the Bullfinch whistles human music; and the Parroquet brandishes a torch or fires a cannon. In these instances confinement has produced denaturalisation, generally to the extent of hatred of its own species. Conversely, no alienation would result without close confinement.

I do not ignore the numerous examples where the natural song is retained by prisoners either taken from the nest, or captured when wild. That is evidence of, at least, a fleeting happiness. Instinct is irrepressible, and the energy of a captive, unless misdirected, protests against the assumption that ' turn whereso'er it may by night or day the things which it hath seen it now can see no more."

At the Zoo one finds of course, instances, where the utmost happiness has resulted from knowledge of the birds' proclivities, as well as cases of apparent misery, arising, presumably, from lack of knowledge—thus even with unlimited space the problem is difficult, and the question is, whether it can be solved by those who must keep pets in cages, or not at all.

With confessedly limited experience, I postulate that Lories, being constitutionally uxorious, should never be left unmated; that they should have ample facilities for climbing and playing; and that whenever possible their cage should be placed in sunshine. Their self-reliance and self-absorption make them pretty well indifferent to other conditions.

Celibacy is less repugnant to the Indian Parroquet, but, unless denaturalised, he likes company of his own species; that of others he cannot endure. He delights in bathing, and pines for occupation. He is essentially a climber, and must have nuts to crack, or dry wood to chew. And above all, he appreciates a little change of scene, and the alternative of a perch. If he must be kept confined to a cage, the ideal form would be cylindrical, but from four to six feet high.

Entirely otherwise are the habits of the long-tailed Australians (*Platycercinae*). They are not climbers, but perchers and flyers; untameable, and never reconciled to close confinement. Moreover their exquisite colours can only be properly appreciated when they are on the wing. In the tropics I have kept Rosellas, Pennants, Kings, and Barnards together, in perfect amity, in a flight cage, seven feet high and ten feet long, furnished with plenty of boughs and twigs, and two pots of a dark leaved shrub, which they did not damage. To keep them either singly or paired, in an ordinary parrot-cage, is—well, not humane. PSITTACUS.

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*There are nevertheless species whose energy does not greatly exceed their need.—Ed.

L.C.B.A. SHOW.

Sir.—In your notes of the recent bird show at the Horticultural Hall, you have, I think, misquoted me. The specimen of the Masked Parrakeet (*Pyrrhulopsis personata*) was entered correctly under its proper name. The bird entered as "Rare Rosella, cock," which some visitors deemed to be a hybrid, but I believe it is really an unusually dusky specimen of the Yellow-bellied Parrakeet of Tasmania (*Platycercus flaviventris*).* Also Mr. Ezra's Lutino Ring-necked Parrakeet was an absentee. (Rev.) G. H. RAYNOR.

Hazeleigh Rectory, 23/12/'12.

BREEDING OF THE BLUE BUDGERIGAR IN ENGLAND.

Sir.—My hen went to nest on Monday, October 21st, 1912. She slept in the log for the first time on October 31st and sat very steadily. I did not look in the log but left her entirely alone, as I do not believe in interfering with nesting birds. On November 20th I heard young in the nest—(November 29th, temperature in aviary 32 degrees; November 30th, temperature 28 degrees).

I first saw the young on Thursday, December 12th—two fine birds left the log on December 31st and are now flying. My aviary is an outside unheated structure facing north and east.

January 6th, 1913. C. PELHAM SUTTON.

STRAY NOTES.

Sir.—It may be of some little interest if I give a few stray facts concerning my birds.

My Budgerigars celebrated the season by hatching out a brood about 11-45 p.m., on December 31st.

My Black-cheek and Madagascar Lovebirds are busily incubating and almost due to hatch.

My birds in the outside aviary have done very well during the wet, windy and muggy weather we have been experiencing, but I should say their aviary is well sheltered, though the temparature has fallen as low as 32 degrees F. in it. The Paradise Whydahs, and Diamond Sparrows are very fit and in grand plumage; the Redstart also did not mind the cold but unfortunatly she succumbed to the mice. My Blue, Marsh and Cole Tits agree well with the other birds (they have been in the mixed series for 15 months), and are fascinating creatures to watch. Great Tits I cage separately and even a pair of this species will not sleep together, but, occupy opposite corners of the cage. I have six Red-headed Lovebirds, all but one very fit, I hope to induce them to nest this coming season.

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*Mr. D. Seth-Smith has kindly sent a postcard confirming this.

Our garden is visited by a goodly number of birds, Tits in variety Greenfinches, Yellow Bunting, Linnet, Hedge Sparrows, Chaffinches, Blackbirds. Thrushes, Robins, Starlings, and last winter, during the short period snow was on the Ground, we saw a pair of Redwings.

Perhaps the following notes re my sister's birds will also be of interest :

Yellow Hammers: These were kept in an open wire cage with several other birds ; they lined a bass nest with moss, hair, etc., and laid four eggs, one shell-less and another got broken, no attempt at incubation was made, so the remaining two eggs were put under a canary, both hatched out —one fledgeling lived for five days and the other only three.

Madagascar Weavers: In a cage with several other birds, nested, result two eggs, with two days between each ; they were disturbed by the other birds and the eggs were broken. Two weeks later they nested again, laying two eggs, with a similar period betweent the first and last ; this clutch was put under a Java Sparrow, but the chicks died in shell. The birds became quarrelsome and were removed to a box-cage, two feet long ; again they nested and laid a clutch of two eggs, with one day only between the first and last– both these eggs were infertile.

(Miss) ALFREDA B. SMYTH.

Catford, S.E.

NESTING RESULTS, 1912.

Sir,—As promised, I send you the following tables of results in these aviaries during a most unpromising season from the weather point of view.

YOUNG BIRDS FULLY REARED.

18 Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*), from 3 pairs.
13 Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*), from 2 pairs.
6 Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximus*), from 2 pairs.
5 Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*).
10 Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californicus*).
14 Californian + Squamata Quail (*L. californicus* + *Callipepla squamata*).
4 Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons (*Phaps elcgans*).
2 Bronze-wing Pigeons (*Phaps chalcoptera*).
1 Violet Dove (*Leptoptila jamaicensis*).
4 Bicheno's Finches (*Stictoptera bichenovi*).
4 Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldiæ*).
3 Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*).
3 Cuba Finches (*Phonipara canora*).
2 Olive Finches (*Phonipara lepida*).
1 Zebra Finch (*Tæncopygia castanotis*).
40 Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).

YOUNG HATCHED OUT BUT NOT REARED.

4 Blue-wing Lovebirds (*Psittacula passerina*).

1 Mealy Rosella + Rosella Parrakeet (*P. pallidiceps* + *P. eximas*).

1 Indian + African Silverbill (*Aidemosyne cantans* + *A. malabarica*).

1 Cinnamon Tree + Yellow Sparrow (*Passer cinnamomeus* + *P. luteus*).

NESTED AND LAID BUT DID NOT HATCH OUT.

Pennant + Rosella Parrakeets (*P. elegans* + *P. eximus*).

Cinnamon Tree Sparrow + Paradise Whydah (*P. cinnamomeus* + *Steganura paradisea*).

Golden-breasted Waxbill (*Sporæginthus subflavus*).

Hoping the above lists may prove of some little interest.

Westbury, Wilts., January 6, 1913. WM. SHORE BAILY.

Post Mortem Reports

See Rules on page iii. of cover.

Green-wing Dove (♂). (John Sheard Reeves). Cause of death, rupture of the liver, with consequent haemorrhage.

Common Pheasant. (R. A. Dyott, Lichfield). The base of the small feathers sent had a downy appearance which was due to numerous nits or eggs of the *Menopon productus.* These parasites are very active, and if they get on to people, they cause a very disagreeable irritation. They are often found on the head and neck of old Pheasants and also on those that have died from exhaustion. This louse is somewhat dangerous to young Pheasants reared in aviaries, because it rapidly multiplies, and then spreads to the whole of the birds kept in a pen.

Parson Finch, (A. J. C. Lowe), West Bridgeford. Parson Finch. Cause of death, pneumonia, probably from an injury.

Green Singing-finch. (Mrs. W. H. Read, Cambridge). Cause of death, rupture of one of the chambers of the heart.

Diamond Sparrow. (W. A. Bainbridge, Surrey). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Cock Jacarini Finch and Cock Firefinch. (W. A. Bainbridge, Surrey). The cause of death of both birds was pneumonia.

F. W. Bull, Surrey. Rules not adhered to.

Gouldian Finch (♀). (W. A. Bainbridge, Surrey). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Mrs. A. M. Connell, Brockenhurst. Rules not adhered to.

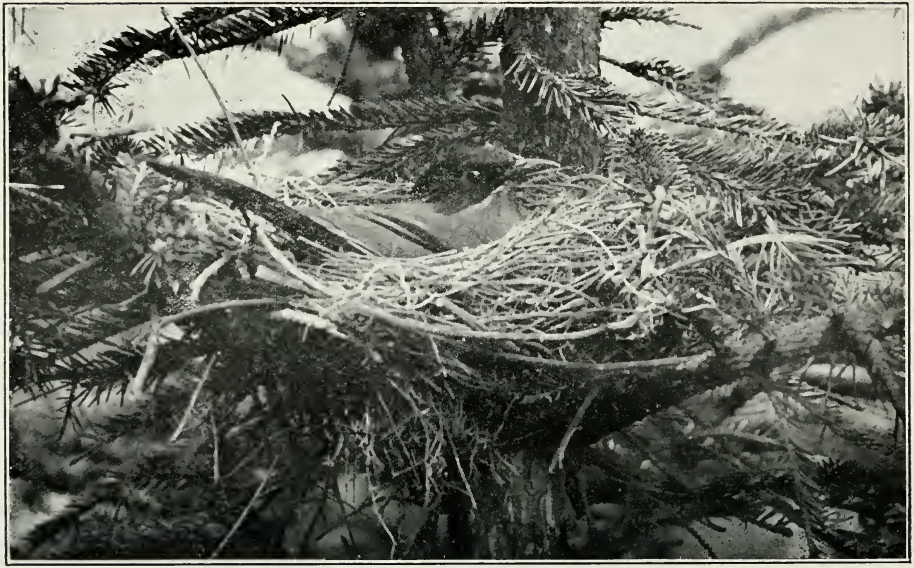
Budgerigar. (Chas. H. Row, Suffolk). Cause of death, enlarged fatty liver, which was almost of a pale yellow colour.

Canary. (P. H. Sellars, Partick). The Canary had an enormously enlarged liver, which was very pale and extremely fatty.

Bullfinch. (R. A. Dyott). Rules not observed.

Parrot Finch. (Miss E. F. Chawner). Rules not observed.

Answered by Post:—W. Shore Baily; Hubert D. Astley; Mrs. Turner-Turner. H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



Black-headed Sibia and Nest. *Photo by H. Willford.*

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Some Interesting Birds.

BY W. T. PAGE. ILLUSTRATED FROM LIFE BY H. WILLFORD.

(*Continued from page* 13).

BLACK-HEADED SIBIA (*Malacias capistrata*): This is a handsome and striking species, whether confined in a cage or enjoying semi-liberty in an aviary, but it is under the latter conditions that it exhibits its full beauty, graceful contour, and interesting deportment: one never wearies of watching it disporting amid the living green of a roomy natural aviary. Before proceeding further, a description of the plumage must be given.

Adult Male: General body colour deep chestnut-red (perhaps soft prune would better describe it), paler on the nape and under surface; middle of back greyish-brown; larger wing-feathers slaty-grey; head glistening black, the long feathers of the fore-crown forming a handsome crest, when raised during periods of excitement; base of wing coverts white forming a conspicuous white bar; tail ruddy-blackish, with the basal half black, forming a broad black band across the tail about one inch from the tip, which is grey; bill black; legs and feet pale ruddy-brown. Total length 9½ inches, tail 5.

Adult female: Similar, but said to be a wee-bit smaller (I could not detect any difference in the size of my pair) the black on her head is slightly tinged with brown and her head plumes not so full as those of the male; her bill is less pointed and less hooked at the tip than that of the male.

Habitat and Habits: According to Jerdon, ranges over the whole Himalayas, from Simla to Bootan, and is one of the most abundant birds about Darjeeling. It frequents the highest trees, climbing on the larger branches, and clinging round and below the smaller branches almost like a

Woodpecker or Nuthatch. The nest has been taken, and is constructed of coarse grass, moss, wool and rootlets. The eggs are pale bluish-white, speckled with rufous.

Major Perreau states that "he has never found them "below 6,000 feet, they seem to be residents at that height, "and upwards. In spite of their retiring habits, he certainly "should have noticed them if they, like many hill-birds, came "lower in winter. They do not seem to mind heat, and cer-"tainly are indifferent to cold."

From various sources I glean that its chief diet in a state of nature is insects, but several gizzards examined by P. T. L. Dodsworth, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., contained berries, seeds, and other vegetable matter.

In 1902 our member Mr. E. W. Harper liberated eleven specimens at Wimborne, in Dorsetshire, which he had previously imported. Their fate is unknown, excepting two, one being shot, the other drowned.

In Captivity: The accompanying plate is a reproduction from a photo by Mr. H. Willford and illustrates a most interesting episode in his aviary, concerning which he sends the following notes:

"My Sibias built in a small fir, both birds carrying "nesting material, which consisted of bents, small twigs, and "hair. The nest was an open cup-shaped structure, lined with "hair. Only one egg was laid, similar to a blackbird's, but "long and narrow, of a dirty cream ground colour, with dark "brown markings, which were lighter at the narrow end. "During the time they were nesting, I found endless numbers "of eggs destroyed, and finally proved them to be the culprits. "The one egg hatched in 13 to 14 days, but the chick only "lived two days—after its decease I moved the parents to "another aviary by themselves, but they made no further "attempt at nesting."

In 1908, in a Bedfordshire aviary this species came much nearer to success, and I quote the following notes from "Bird Notes," Vol. VII.

The birds were in perfect condition when put out, and had a roomy garden aviary, to themselves, well screened from curious eyes, nevertheless complete success—that is, the rearing of the young up to the point of being independent of their parents was not attained: one only living for six days, the other dying on the twelfth day.

The nest, an open-cup-shaped structure was commenced on June 12th, and completed two days later. It was constructed of hay—very deep—in branches against wire-netting facing west. Two eggs were laid, a little shorter than a Blackbird's, pale blue in colour, with brown markings. The eggs were laid on June 22nd, and 23rd, respectively, and on the 24th incubation commenced. The hen sat very steadily and was fed by the cock on the nest.

One egg hatched out on July 6th, and the other the following day.

The fledgelings were blind, of a deep red-brown, quite naked, no down being visible.

One chick died on July 12th, but the other throve well, and appeared to be very healthy, the quills appeared on the seventh day, and on the tenth day, the colours of the plumage were plainly visible; on the twelfth day, when it died, it was in every respect the same in colouring as its parents.

The parent birds had access to ripe fruit, mealworms, gentles, live ants' cocoons and insectile mixture. The parent birds fed it from the crop, and so far as observation went, on mealworms only. The weather was very wet, and during that time the cock bird mostly sat beside his mate, presumably, to assist her to shelter their progeny.

From 1908 to 1910, a pair of this species, imported by Major (then Capt.) Perreau, occupied the writer's aviary, which, unfortunately, was rather overcrowded, and in consequence natural cover was not possible—nevertheless they did attempt to build, but their structure, similar to that of the Grey-winged Ouzel (*Merula boulboul*), save that it was not plastered together with mud, was never thoroughly finished. The dismantling of my aviaries in 1910, led to the dispersal of most of my collection, and I have not kept the species since. I know of no finer spectacle than a pair of these birds disporting themselves within the confines of a roomy aviary—unless it be to see them in their native haunts—the rapidity of their noiseless flight, graceful wing evolutions, interesting characteristics, whether at work or when engaged in the serious pursuit of any winged insect that came within the aviary, many being taken on the wing through the netting—many of their captures being so minute, that the only indication of a successful capture was the swallowing of the prey. Their wing evolutions in a somewhat confined space are simply marvellous, especially when the male pursued his mate, when the pairing fever began, how they escaped bashing themselves against the shell of aviary and internal standards, as they whirled and twisted to and fro, one in pursuit of the other, finally dashing into some retreat with a speed the eye could scarcely follow, was astonishing, yet they never injured themselves, nor collided with any other occupant of their somewhat overcrowded enclosure. However, I do not take this to be the actual courting display (though it may be part of it), which I take to consist of the male hopping about the branches with dropped wings and erected tail, his mate sitting stolidly with ruffled feathers, awaiting his approach; after sitting together for a moment or two, the performance was gone through again, and yet again, followed by a prolonged dance by the male in similar attitude, then pairing usually took place.

They could catch any mealworm or other insect thrown into the air, other birds simply not having a "look in." During the two and a half years they lived in my aviary, they were out of doors all the year round, and during one of the winters there was a period of exceptionally severe weather, lasting several weeks, yet they appeared as fit and cheery as they did during the summer. While more fitted for the aviary than the cage, they can be kept under the conditions of cage-life, and soon become tame and confiding under such conditions, but the cage must be a roomy one, and it needs constant attention to keep it clean and sweet. But these notes are already too lengthy, and I will bring this portion of them to a conclusion by stating that they must not be kept with small birds.

Diet: In my aviary they had access to insectile mixture, milk sop, ripe fruit, live insects, and seed—with the exception of seed they partook heartily of the whole range of dietary offered, and while with me never had a day's illness or even the slightest indisposition that I am aware of.

To be continued.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 333, Vol. III.

Numida meleagris. COMMON GUINEAFOWL..

Range. West Africa, Senegambia, through Ashantee to Gaboon; C. Verde Is.; Annobon; St. Thomas' Island. (O. Grant).

Guineafowl are common in localities which suit them. These in the Gambia are usually near the bank of the river, where thick bush and high trees abound, and if such a place is backed by a tract of ironstone country, it is a sure find for them. As such spots are much more frequent in the upper half of our river, and as of course the river water, on which they depend so much, is fresh there, it follows that Guineafowl are very much more common there than lower down nearer the coast.

During the heat of the day they keep to the shelter of the bush but in the mornings and evenings sally forth on to the cultivation round their haunts to feed. They are always found in parties, often of large size, and as a rule are most regular in their habits, for wherever they occur they can usually be found in certain particular spots at certain hours of the day. They always commence the day, almost before daylight, with a drink, then they move slowly on foot to their feeding grounds; by 10 a.m. they retire to the bush, to emerge again about 3 or 4 o'clock (according to the season) and re-visit the open, finishing the day by a flight to the river for a last drink, after which they retire for the night to the dense bush along the river's edge, piassava growth being a most favourite roosting-place, as once there they are unapproachable by man and most beasts.

Guineafowl are so well known domesticated that description is unnecessary, though I may note that in the young all the feathers of the upper parts have brown ends, giving these parts an appearance of being washed with brown, while the head is the same colour marked with two longitudinal black streaks.

Their native names are Kammo in Mandingo, and Nât in Joloff.

In the very upper river one occasionally sees a few Black-crested Guineafowl, which I suppose are *G. cristata*, in captivity. This bird is rather smaller than the common species. Its general colour is black spotted with pale blue-grey and it has a long tuft of curling black feathers on the head and a black collar of similar but shorter feathers encircling the back and sides of the neck. The chin and throat are red, the other bare parts blue. I have been told that these birds are occasionally found wild in a few places in the Upper River, but all I have seen have been brought in by people from Futa Jallon or elsewhere from the south.

Pterocles quadricinctus. AFRICAN PAINTED SAND-GROUSE

Range. Senegambia to Abyssinia.

These Sand-Grouse are common here all the year round nearly all over the Protectorate, but at two seasons, December—January and again in June, their numbers are enormously increased, and in some years too they are much more abundant than in others. Those which join our residents in June are, I presume, on their way north to the desert and drier parts to breed during the rains, while those which appear in December, always by far the largest immigration, are the results of the breeding season on their way to spread themselves over the country to the south. Although the great majority leave us to breed, a few must nest with us, as I have once or twice found their eggs, laid on the bare ground, in April and May.

Their favourite haunt is thin bush in the neighbourhood of cultivated ground, and they are particularly partial to recently burnt patches. In such places one may put up pair after pair one after the other in quite a small area, while in December or January, there may be hundreds all collected in one such spot. On the ground they are most difficult to see, so well do their markings blend with their surroundings. During the day they lie quiet, moving about slowly perhaps to feed during the mornings and afternoons, and it is not until evening that they become really active and fly off to pools, etc., to drink, arriving usually just at dark in small parties, which drop noiselessly at the edge of the water, drink their fill and off again at once, to scatter over the country to feed, often continuing their meal late into the night especially when the moon is up. During the day they lie very close and only get up when absolutely obliged, to zigzag rather heavily away among the bushes and settle again at no great distance. Their evening flight is quite different, rapid and direct, so that in many places they give quite pretty shooting as they flight over to water. Their note is a low characteristic whistle, uttered both on the wing and from the ground; it often gives one useful warning of their approach or whereabouts.

By the English here they are for some reason nearly always called "Barbary Quail," while in Mandingo their names are Pilli-Pilleeche (an imitation of their call) or Mbirro, a local name confined to the Upper River.

Description. Adult male. General colour pale "game-bird" brown spotted with black. Forehead and a spot above and in front of each eye white, a band behind the white forehead across the front of the head and ending on each side at the loral line black, rest of the head like the back; eyelids pale yellow; wings black. Breast crossed by three cross-bars, chestnut, buff and black in that order, from above downwards. The female has no breast or head markings. The young males don the breast markings some time before they assume the full head markings of the adult.

TURNICIDÆ.

Turnix lepurana. SMITH'S BUSTARD-QUAIL.

Range. Africa, South of about 13 North Lat. Aden. (Ogilvie Grant).

I have twice seen small three-toed Quails shot here (one in May, the other in March) which must have been Turnices, and almost certainly this species. They are distinctly smaller than the common Quail, and their most noticeable feature is the crescent shape as they fly of their wings and body. They cannot be common here.

OTIDIDÆ.

In the Gambia there are three species of BUSTARD, which vary in size from about 3 to 20 lbs. in weight. These, I be-believe to be *Trachelotis senegalensis, Lissotis melanogaster* and *Eupodotis arabs.* Besides these there is another much rarer and much larger bird, which Captain Stanley, for many years Commissioner of the Upper River Province has once or twice seen, but never been able to obtain. He tells me that on each occasion he at first mistook this bird for an antelope standing in the grass, and that its marked whiskers made it easy to distinguish from any other Bustard, apart altogether from its much larger size. This bird is probably *Neotis denhami.*

The two first named species are resident here and may be found almost anywhere in the Protectorate, but the larger species are only winter visitors and never approach any nearer the coast than the country about McCarthy Island.

All are locally known here as "Bush-Turkeys," or by their native names, " Kunko-Duntung " (=Farm-cock) in Mandingo, and " Gemet " in Joloff. They afford excellent eating, but not being really common are only obtainable as an occasional luxury. They seem to be very thin-skinned birds and take very little killing; as apparently a single pellet at an almost impossible range will bring one down stone dead, the fall no doubt finishing the shot's work. Very different in this respect are the Bush-fowl, which must be hard hit to be killed and can carry away a lot of shot without any sign of faltering.

Our four species in order of size are:—

Trachelotis senegalensis. SENEGAL BUSTARD.

Range. Senegambia; north east Africa. (*H.L.*)

These Bustards may be met with in suitable localities all over the Protectorate. They haunt fairly open country, preferably at some little elevation above the riverside level. Such places are more usual along our boundary and in the neighbouring parts of French territory, so that they are much more frequently met with there than closer to the river. The edges of the large cleared cultivated areas and the extensive tracts of ironstone upland, where these are clothed with grass or thin bush, are their favourite abiding places. This species, I believe, breeds with us, while the others do not. They feed mainly on insects and the like, but supplement this diet with various seeds and berries. The weight of the male is about 4lbs, the female about 3lbs.

Lissotis melanogaster. BLACK-BREASTED BUSTARD.

Range. Senegambia to Benguela; north east Africa, east Africa; south to Natal. (*H.L.*)

This species is considerably larger than the last, weight 6 to 7lbs., and always to be distinguished by the black in its plumage. Their haunts are much the same, but towards the end of the dry season, one may come across them on the dry burnt swamps, where I have never yet seen any other species of Bustard. In such places one may find half-a-dozen on quite a small area, evidently attracted by the amount of insect life to be found there, especially soon after the grass has been burnt. Although they occur throughout our country, I think they are rather more common in Niumi and Kombo near the Atlantic coast than elsewhere.

Eupodotis arabs.

This I believe must be the much larger Bustard of the Upper River and McCarthy Island Provinces. I have only seen them in these parts and only in the winter months, as they are certainly distinctly rare here. In weight they vary from 17 to 20 lbs.

Neotis denhami.

The very large extremely rare whiskered bird referred to above is a very occasional visitor.

GRUIDÆ.

Balearica pavonina. CROWNED CRANE.

Range. West to north-east and Equatorial Africa. (*H.L*).

This well-known beautiful bird is the only Gambian representative of the family. They are fairly common throughout our territory and breed in the larger swamps, especially those of Niamina on the South Bank. Towards the end of the rains one often sees parties of six or eight feeding greedily on the growing rice in the rice-fields, and on such a diet, that is, young rice eked out with table scraps, etc., the three or four young birds I have had, have thrived and grown rapidly. Native names are, Komaro (Mandingo), Jambajob, Jamba (Joloff).

(*To be Continued*).

Purple Sunbirds.

(*Arachnechthra asiatica*).

By Miss S. F. Chawner.

Towards the end of March, 1912, I received a true pair of Purple Sunbirds from Mr. Hamlyn, who had imported them the previous summer; thus they were house moulted, and well acclimatised when they came into my possession. To this, and the fine spring of 1912, I think much of the success I have had in keeping this species must be attributed. They

Recently shot Crown-Bird.

were in very fair plumage, the cock going out of colour. For the first two or three weeks I had them caged in the inner compartment of my heated aviary, but they were not very happy and spent their time either in trying to get out or in quarrelling, so one fine day I took my courage in both hands and opened the cage door. They were out in a flash and two minutes later were disporting themselves in the open flight. Presently the cock burst into song, the first time I had heard him and though I had read of the volume of sound this tiny creature can produce, I was thoroughly astonished at its power and sweetness. From that moment, the Sunbirds made themselves thoroughly at home. They chose favourite twigs and perched on them and kept unremitting watch for insects. A large pear tree and a small apple tree are close to the end of their flight, and when in flower these attract a large number of flies, gnats, and other insects, and very few of these escaped the Sunbirds. It was most interesting to watch them hawking, hovering and turning in the air after their prey, and when they had caught it, returning to their chosen twig to watch for another victim. Often their captures were so minute that I could only tell that they had been successful by seeing them swallow. The staple food provided for them is run honey mixed with Nestle's condensed milk, the cheap white grapes sold by grocers, ripe pears in season and now-and-then a little sponge cake. They are by no means very particular, and dip their beaks into anything that seems promising. They are very fond of the "green fly," which so infested the fruit trees last summer, and would clear a twig of these pests with wonderful rapidity and thoroughness. It was a great joy to them when I brought my sweeping-net into their aviary and gradually allowed its contents to escape; they would perch on a twig close by and hawk and snap to their heart's content. Fresh ant's eggs did not appeal to them, but they took very kindly to wasp grubs in the comb, treating the luckless grubs as they do grapes, viz., piercing the skin and sucking up the contents. What surprised me more, was to find them fond of young green peas; they would quickly demolish a whole pod full leaving only the empty skin. The peas must be *quite* young or their skins are too tough for the Sunbirds to pierce. Another thing they liked was to sit on a slice of cucumber and suck the juice.

Of course all these delights are perforce at an end during the winter, though they still manage to hawk and catch gnats in surprising quantity. It is curious how little weather affects them.—[they have proved equally hardy in a Surrey aviary.—Ed.].—I do not pretend that they do not enjoy warm sunshine, but neither wet nor cold seem to ruffle them, and somehow they always looked dry and sleek. The cock began to come into colour during October and by the end of November was quite perfect.

They bathe freely, sometimes in a shallow dish, but more frequently they flutter about among wet foliage which seems to be their natural method. The cock is a pugnacious little rascal and quite holds his own among the Sugar Birds and small finches in the aviary, in fact, only his small size prevents him from being a decided bully. The little hen goes her own way without any fuss, but I have noticed that she too can make herself respected by her neighbours. The birds show no interest in each other, either amicable or otherwise; perhaps had there been any hot weather this would have been different; I cannot say.

The aviary in which the Sunbirds are, is only a small one about 10ft. by 4ft. in the covered part and 10ft. by 8ft. in the flight, 8ft. high throughout: it is heated by a small coil of hot water pipes and the birds are shut in at night, but during the day go in and out at pleasure unless the weather is very severe. The covered part has spruce tops packed in places with bundles of heather, which I find excellent for shelter and sleeping quarters. The flight was only added last spring and the shrubs and climbers planted there have not had time to make effective shelter, so spruce tops and heather are here also. The ground is earth with growing turf, but wire netting has been sunk all round 18ins. deep to guard against rats, and a broad band of zinc at the bottom prevents mice from gaining a foothold readily, though I do not claim that it is impossible; still we are not much troubled with them. The aspect is south and west, with complete shelter from north and east. The flight has a double roof, that is to say, it is composed of two layers of ¼in. wire netting with 6ins. space between the layers to prevent cats or hawks from reaching the birds. The shelter is match-boarded and felted and can be entirely glazed during the winter by inserting movable panes in light wooden frames.

At the present time this aviary contains besides the Sunbirds, true pairs of Hoopoes, Yellow-winged (*Cœreba cyanea*) and Blue Sugar Birds (*Dacnis cayana*), Hooded Siskins (*Chrysomitris cucullata*), Blue-breasted Waxbills (*Estrilda angolensis*), Bichenos (*Stictoptera bichenovi*), and Masked Doves (*Æna capensis*). Also a Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*), a Parrot Finch (*Erythrura psittacea*) a hen Black-headed Gouldian Finch (*P. gouldiæ*), and a small yellowish brown Finch (most probably some species of *Spermophila* or *Oryzoborus*. more probably the former.—Ed.) with a beak like a Bullfinch whose name I do not know; it came from Brazil.

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Aviary Notes and Episodes—1912.

By Gerald E. Rattigan.

Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*): My Green Cardinals have again proved themselves to be astoundingly prolific breeders. In spite of the fact that the hen at any rate must be six or seven years old at least, for she has been in my own possession nearly five years. Judging by the appearance of her feet, and general demeanour, she was by no means in the first blush of youth when I received her.

They commenced to build at the end of April, and on the 5th of May the first egg was laid, followed by three others on consecutive days. The hen, as is her invariable custom, commenced to sit with the laying of the first egg.

The first egg hatched on May 19th, and two young left the nest on the 3rd of June. All four eggs hatched out, but only two young were fully reared. The young as I think I mentioned before, in some notes on this species, when first hatched, are bare, save for a little jet black down. I have noticed that the young of this species, though easy enough to cater for whilst still in the nest, require, once they leave it, to be supplied with an unlimited quantity of insect food, otherwise they very soon begin to droop and die. Live ants' eggs in themselves do not appear to be enough, but supplied in conjunction with wasps' grubs, will keep the young birds in the finest condition. This is rather surprising in view of the fact that before the young leave the nest they appear to thrive quite well, if the old birds are supplied with a good insectivorous mixture plus a few mealworms.

The first brood had hardly left the nest, when the hen commenced to repair the old nest, and was soon sitting on another clutch of four.

All the eggs hatched out, but the chicks were killed off almost at once, by the young of the first nest, which still insisted on being fed by the old birds though quite capable of fending for themselves and used to follow the hen back to her nest, clamouring for food. In one of the scuffles which always ensued, the newly hatched chicks were trampled upon and killed. The old birds had two more nests after this, and would no doubt have had still more had I not checked their further activities in this direction by catching and caging them up.

On each of these subsequent occasions the usual clutch of four was laid, and not a single one of the sixteen eggs laid proved infertile, though only seven birds were actually fully reared.

The reason why so few of the young were fully reared was owing chiefly to the lack of a continuous supply of insect food and also no doubt to the wretched weather we experienced practically without an interval all last summer; but I think everyone will admit that the record of the birds was a remarkable one.

One rather curious part in connection with these birds was that on every occasion a cock Zebra Finch helped to feed the young, and could not have been more solicitous for the welfare of the nestlings had they been his own. The Cardinals at first resented the interference of this well-meaning bird, and on more than one occasion nearly terminated his life, but after a time they apparently came to the conclusion that he was a well meaning lunatic and took no further notice of him. It was most amusing to watch this diminuitive bird striving to satisfy the demands of four half-fledged Cardinals, about three times his size.

PARROT FINCHES (*Erythrura psittacea*) : These are really charming little birds, and moreover rare on the market, and, so far as my experience goes, are easy to breed, which two facts should make them appeal still more to most aviculturists. My birds commenced building in earnest on the first of May, and completed their nest by the sixth.

The nest was built in a box, really supplied for Canaries, an earthenware cup with covered in and slightly projecting top. Four eggs were laid, pure white and rather oval in shape. The first egg was laid on 7th May, the day after the completion of the nest and the other three on consecutive days. The young, however, were not hatched till the 26th May!! That is nineteen days! This is surely rather unusual, as I have always seen it stated that the eggs, of this species hatch on the 14th day.

As a matter of fact, after the sixteenth day had passed, and the eggs still remained unhatched, I nearly destroyed them concluding that either the young were dead in shell or that the eggs were not filled. Fortunately, however, I tested them on the off-chance, and was very much surprised to find that the eggs appeared to contain young. I therefore replaced them and waited developments, the eggs hatching out as I have already mentioned on the nineteenth day. One young bird left the nest on June 13th, and the other three the following day.

The young were all distinctly marked with red some days before they left the nest, and were rather a darker green than the old birds.

The young were reared on greenfood and seeding grass ,together with a good insectivorous mixture, and a few mealworms, though a certain amount of millet seed appeared to form at any rate a part of their bill of fare.

The young, from the time they were hatched, till quite independent of their parents, were a very lusty brood, in fact the strongest young birds I have ever seen and their cries for food when still in the nest could be heard at a considerable distance. The old birds went to nest again and had laid a clutch of four by August 16th.

I left town soon after this date, so am unable to give any further details as to duration of incubation, etc. The young were unfortunately murdered shortly after leaving the nest by some other inhabitant of the aviary.

CUBAN FINCHES (*Phonipara canora*) : I only purchased the hen of this pair in September and she was far from robust on her arrival; however, she soon picked up and to my great surprise started flying around with nesting material about a week after her arrival.

Shortly afterwards with the assistance of the cock she constructed, in a thick bush, a very neat dome-shaped nest with side entrance and lined within with moss and feathers. Three eggs were laid, spotted thickly at the larger end with rusty-brownish spots forming a complete ring; the remainder of the surface having occasional faint spots of a similar colour; ground colour being greenish blue. The hen sat steadily some sixteen days when I removed the eggs and found two were infertile, while the third contained a fully developed chick which would doubtless have hatched in due course but for my interference.

The birds however went to nest almost at once in the same nest merely contenting themselves with adding a few more feathers to the lining. On this occasion only two eggs were laid and I rather despaired of their coming to anything as the birds did not sit nearly so well, being frequently off the nest for long periods. One egg duly hatched however, but though I did not keep any accurate record of the length of incubation, I am absolutely positive that it lasted well over the 12th or even 14th day. Yet I have seen it stated on good authority that the incubation period of these birds is 12 days! (Weather and steadiness of individual pairs cause some little variation in the incubation period.—Ed.). It would be interesting to have this point cleared up by the evidence of others who have kept this species, for I have no doubt from the appearance of the chick in the first clutch that it would have hatched out on the next, or 17th day.

The youngster throve well, being reared chiefly upon insectile mixture and a fair quantity of mealworms, and left the nest on the 22nd day.

It is now about 8 weeks old and is still fed by its parents, though it can and does feed itself as well. All three birds still roost in the nest together.

Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*): These Cardinals took a long time to settle down to business, merely amusing themselves at first by filling various nesting receptacles with odds and ends of hay, string and other rubbish; however, at last they began to take a more serious view of life and their duties to posterity, and on the 3rd of June commenced operations by evicting a bullfinch from her nest, and incidentally half killing her in the process. This nest they enlarged and converted to their own purposes. Three eggs were laid of a greenish grey ground colour speckled and spotted with brown, two of them being far more finely and closely spotted than the other and rather resembled a miniature Blackbird's egg, while the other took more after those of the Missel Thrush.

The hen sat splendidly and was usually fed by the cock on the nest, but the eggs failed to hatch and I removed them. Two of them proved infertile while the third contained a dead chick.

This disaster I again ascribe to the awful weather we experienced about this time, more especially as the nest in this instance was in a very exposed place.

The birds made no further attempt at nesting after this failure, but I hope to do better with them this year.

Spotted-backed (*Hyphantornis spilonotus*) + Black-capped Weavers (*H. dimidiatus*): I have identified the Black-capped as *H. diamidiatus*, though I can't say that I am *absolutely* certain that this identification is correct.

These birds paired off in May, but I did not, on account of their disparity in size, expect much to come of the union. The cock began several nests, but invariably pulled them to pieces again, however, about the end of July he started building in real earnest, and completed a nest about the 1st of August, which the hen proceeded to line with feathers, the cock meanwhile contenting himself with building a series of dummy nests near by.

The nest itself was very similar to the one I described in "Bird Notes," in 1911 except that in this instance there was no bar built across the neck or entrance of the nest.

On the 12th August I thought it would be worth while having a look inside the nest as the hen appeared to remain in it for long intervals, though whenever fresh feathers were placed in the aviary she started re-lining again.

I found two eggs of a greyish-green colour, speckled and spotted very closely with rufous brown.

The young hatched out on 18th August, but three days later all trace of them had completely vanished. The hen went to nest again almost immediately (so I am informed for as I have already mentioned I left town about this time), and laid one egg which proved infertile.

She again went to nest at the latter end of September, laying one egg, but this also failed to hatch. The old cock, one of the pair which bred in 1911, has unfortunately just succumbed to the effects of the combination of wet, cold, and foggy weather we have experienced lately. I have still a fine cock Rufus-necked Weaver (*H. cucullatus*), and hope I may prove successful in obtaining a cross with him. The difficulty with these birds is to rear the young once they have hatched, and no doubt to be successful one must keep the birds well supplied with a constant and varied insectivorous diet, and this to one living in town is not a particularly easy matter.

I think this comprises my list of the more interesting species:

Other birds which succeeded in rearing young in my aviaries were as follows:

Greenfinches (*Ligurinus chloris*): Reared three young from one pair.

Zebra Finches (*T. castanotis*) : Two pairs reared between them about 12 young.

Canaries: One pair reared nine in out-door aviary.

Cockateels: (*Calopsittacus novæ hollandiæ*): One pair after many failures, succeeded in rearing two young birds.

Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) : Two pairs only succeeded in rearing three.

Saffron Finches (*Sycalis flaveola*): one pair had several nests, but the young on each occasion met with disaster from the hands (or perhaps it would be more correct to say the beak), of some other occupant of the aviary, on every occasion after leaving the nest.

By the way I have not seen it remarked that these birds take 18 months to come into full colour, yet this has always been my experience with them.

The Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*): I am sorry to say proved a failure this year, and made no serious attempt at nesting. I fancy the cold and rain of last summer had something to do with this.

The Rosy Pastor (*Pastor roseus*) and English Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) cross failed to materialise, though four eggs were laid and closely incubated, all the eggs proved infertile.

Another cross which I hope may materialise, is a cock Zebra and hen African Waxbill. They have built a nest and the hen is at present incubating a clutch of eggs which are due to hatch on the 18th inst.

Breeding of Hybrids, between the Grey-winged Ouzel and Argentine Blackbird

Merula boulboul + M. fuscater.

By R. Suggitt.

There is no reason why the Grey-winged Ouzel should not become thoroughly established in our aviaries. I think all those who have possessed true pairs have found it eager to go to nest under favourable conditions, and mostly with success. Of course, unless fresh blood is introduced occasionally the stock is liable to deteriorate in the course of a few generations, and unfortunately fresh specimens will never be easy to procure, its habitat being the Himalaya mountains.

The genus *Merula* has a very wide range; *M. fuscater* the mother of the hybrids coming from the Argentine, about as far from the Himalayas, the home of the Grey-winged, as could possibly be imagined.

The genus *Merula* was separated from the genus *Turdus* on account of the difference of plumage of the sexes, but *fuscater,* although an undoubted "Blackbird," is scarcely a credit to the genus, as it is one of the few species in which the plumage of the sexes is practically alike.

A full account of the successful breeding of the Grey-winged Ouzel was written by our Editor, who was the first to breed this interesting species, in "Bird Notes," Vol. VIII. Hybrids between the Grey-winged Ouzel + Common Blackbird, were bred by Dr. A. G. Butler, in 1905, "Avicultural Magazine," Vol. II., N.S., and in Vol. I. (Third Series) of the same journal Mr. Thorniley gives the particulars of his success with the Argentine Blackbird.

Mr. W. E. Teschemaker also successfully bred the Argentine Blackbird about the same time. and kindly presented me with his breeding hen, in 1911, and I determined to try my luck at hybrids between her and the Grey-wing. She was turned into an aviary for the winter with three males and two females of the latter species, and they all agreed well together until January, 1912, when she chose one of the cock Grey-wings for a mate and commenced to clear the aviary of possible rivals in the shape of the hen Grey-wings. She killed one of them and would have killed the other if she had not been promptly removed. I put her and one of the Grey-wings into another aviary in April 1912, but, I evidently had not given her the mate of her choice, for at first she thrashed him soundly and he often had to fly for his life! She afterwards appeared to become indifferent, and as the weeks went by I gave up hope of any hybrids. It was not until the middle of June that she commenced to carry nesting material about, finally selecting as a nesting site, a shallow open box, nailed on the side of the shelter. A nest, of the ordinary Blackbird type, was completed in three days, the first egg was laid on June 19th, and with the third and last one incubation commenced. The eggs were greenish-blue in ground colour, spotted rather sparingly over the whole surface with reddish-brown and pale purple. All the eggs proved fertile and hatched out on July 3rd; the naked nestlings were very similar to those of the Grey-winged Ouzel, having deep flesh coloured skins, with yellowish down. The Argentine Blackbird proved to be a splendid mother. In spite of the fact that she was rather excitable and very jealous of the Grey-wing's attention to the nestlings, she herself was most devoted to them; they grew rapidly, and left the nest on the 16th July. These youngsters were reared entirely on earthworms and gentles, with a few mealworms occasionally.

On August 2nd the hen again commenced to incubate three eggs, but I took two of them away from her; the other one hatched on August 15th, the first three young ones at this time being practically independent.

The plumage of all the hybrids while in the aviary appeared to be almost alike, except that two of them were browner than the other two, especially in certain lights, and these I took to be hens, the two probable cocks which were slaty-black in general appearance, I often heard "recording" their songs.

The following is a description of one of the "slaty" birds which was killed by flying at an unprotected window, on December 17th last.

Whole of upper surface, throat, and chest, black, each feather broadly edged with ashy olive; chin dull white; breast and abdomen ashy with darker centres to the feathers; ventral region uniform ashy, upper and under tail coverts and tail feathers dull black edged with ashy olive; outer webs of secondaries and secondary coverts reddish brown, forming a large wing patch; remainder of wing coverts ashy olive; bill dusky yellow; feet yellowish horn colour.

On Jan. 5th, one of the browner coloured plumaged birds met with a similar accident, and I sent the body to our Editor, the two remaining ones are at present in the best possible health and plumage, the supposed male has not yet sung in earnest, but, I often hear him practising.

Hybrids which have been Reared in Captivity,

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

I must preface this list, as I did that of the species, by stating that it can only be made fully complete and correct by the co-operation of all, which, I trust will be forthcoming, so that any errors may be eliminated and omissions made good. With some Groups it has been impossible to obtain definite information as to whether they have been reared by foster-parents, or other artificial means; such cases must stand unless readers can disprove them.

I propose commencing with the Fringillidæ and Ploceidæ and then following on with other Groups in proper sequence.

FRINGILLIDÆ.

Bramblefinch (*Fringilla montifringilla*) + Chaffinch (*F. coelebs*).

Cardinal, Pope (*Paroaria larvata*) + Red-crested (*P. cucullata*).

,, Red-crested (*Paroaria cucullata*) + Green (*Gubernatrix cristata*).

,, Red-crested (*Paroaria cucullata*) + Pope (*P. larvata*).

,, Virginian (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) + Green (*G. cristata*).

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) + Bramblefinch (*F. montifringilla*).

,, (,, ,,) + Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*).

Finch, Alario (*Alario alario*) + Grey Singing (*Serinus leucopygius*).

,, Bramble- (*see Bramblefinch*).

,, Chaff- (*see Chaffinch*).

,, Gold- (*see Goldfinch*).

,, Green- (*see Greenfinch*).

,, Green Singing (*Serinus icterus*) + Alario Finch (*Alario alario*).

,, ,, ,, (,, ,,) + Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*).

,, ,, ,, (,, ,,) + Siskin (*Chrysomitris spinus*).

,, Grey Singing (*Serinus leucopygius*) + Green Singing (*S. icterus*).

,, ,, ,, (,, ,,) + Linnet (*Linota cannabina*).

,, Saffron (*Sycalis flaveola*) + St. Helena Seedeater (*Serinus flaviventris*).

,, ,, (,, ,,) + Pelzeln's Saffron Finch (*S. pelzelni*).

,, Serin (*Serinus hortulans*) + Green Singing Finch (*S. icterus*).

Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*) + Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europea*).

,, (,, ,,) + Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*).

,, (,, ,,) + Linnet (*Linota cannabina*).

,, (,, ,,) + Redpoll (*Linota rufescens*).

,, (,, ,,) + Siskin (*Chrysomitris spinus*).

Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*) + Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).

,, (,, ,,) + Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europea*).

,, (,, ,,) + Japanese Greenfinch (*L. kawarhiba*)

,, Siberian (*Ligurinus sinicus*) + Greenfinch (*L. chloris*).

Linnet (*Linota cannabina*) + Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europea*).

,, (,, ,,) + Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*).

,, (,, ,,) + Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*).

(,, ,,) + Grey Singing Finch (*Serinus leucopygius*).

,, (,, ,,) + Twite (*Linota flavirostris*).

Redpoll (*Linota refescens*) + Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europea*).
„ („ „) + Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*).
„ („ „) + Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*).
„ („ „) + Siskin (*Chrysomitris spinus*).
„ („ „) + Twite (*Linota flavirostris*).
St. Helena Seedeater (*Serinus flaviventris*) + Grey Singing Finch (*Serinus leucopygius*).
„ „ „ („ „) + Saffron Finch *Sycalis flaveola*).
Siskin (*Chrysomitris spinus*) + Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europea*).
„ („ „) + Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*).
„ („ „) + Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*).
„ („ „) + Linnet (*Linota cannabina*).
„ („ „) + St. Helena Seedeater (*S. flaviventris*).
„ („ „) + Sulphury Seedeater (*S. sulphuratus*).
„ („ „) + Twite (*Linota flavirostris*).
„ Blackheaded (*C. icterica*) + Cape Canary (*Serinus canicollis*).
„ („ „ „) + Siskin (*C. spinus*).
„ Totta (*C. totta*) + Siskin (*C. spinus*).
Song-Sparrow, White-crowned (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) + Pileated Song-Sparrow (*Z. pileata*).
Sparrow, Cape (*Passer arcuatus*) + Yellow Sparrow (*P. luteus*).
„ Grey-headed (*Passer diffusus*) + Cape Sparrow (*P. arcuatus*).
„ Tree (*Passer montanus*) + House Sparrow (*P. domesticus*).
„ Tree (*Passer montanus*) + Yellow Sparrow (*P. luteus*).
„ Yellow (*Passer luteus* + Tree Sparrow (*P. montanus*).
Twite (*Linota flavirostris*) + Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*).

PLOCEIDÆ.

Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*) + Sharp-tailed Finch (*U. acuticauda*).
„ („ „) + Spice Finch (*Munia punctulata*)
„ („ „) + Striated Finch (*U. striata*).
Finch, Bib (*Spermestes nana*) + Indian Silverbill (*Aidemosyne malabarica*).
„ Bicheno's (*Stictoptera bichenovi*) + Zebra Finch (*Toeniopygia castanotis*).
„ Cherry (*Aidemosyne modesta*) + Masked Grassfinch (*Poephila personata*.
„ Chestnut (*Munia castaneithorax*) + Black-headed Mannikin (*M. atricapilla*).
„ „ „ „ + Indian Silverbill (*Aidemosyne malabarica*).

Finch, Chestnut (*Munia castaneithorax*) + Striated Finch ((*Uroloncha striata*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + White-headed Mannikin (*M. maja*).
,, Diamond (*Steganopleura guttata*) + Zebra Finch (*Tæniopygia castanotis*).
,, Long-tailed, Grass- (*Poephila acuticauda*) + Masked Grassfinch (*Poephila modesta*).
,, Parson (*Poephila cincta*) + Long-tailed Grassfinch (*Poephila acuticauda*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Striated Finch (*Uroloncha striata*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + White-headed Mannikin (*Munia maja*).
,, Parrot (*Erythrura psittacea*) + Tri-coloured Parrot Finch (*E. trichroa*).
,, Red-headed (*Amadina erythrocephala* + Ribbon Finch (*A. fasciata*).
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, + White Java Sparrow (*Munia oryzivora, var. alba*).
,, Spice (*Munia punctulata*) + Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Black-headed Mannikin (*Munia atricapilla*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Bronze Mannikin (*Spermestes cucullata*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Silverbill Af. (*Aidemosyne tans*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Striated Finch (*Uroloncha striata*).
,, Sharp-tailed (*Uroloncha acuticauda*) + Silverbill, A. (*Aidemosyne cantans*).
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, + Striated Finch (*U. striata*).
,, Striated (*Uroloncha striata*) + Bengalese (*U. domestica*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Chestnut Finch (*Munia castaneithorax*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Silverbill, A. (*Aidemosyne cantans*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Spice Finch (*Munia punctulata*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + Sharp-tailed Finch (*U. acuticauda*).
,, ,, ,, ,, + White-headed Mannikin (*Munia maja*).

Finch, Zebra (*Tæniopygia castanotis*) + Bicheno's Finch (*Stictoptera bichenovi*).
„ „ („ „) + Long-tailed Grassfinch (*Poephila acuticauda*).
„ „ („ „) + Silverbill, A. (*Aidemosyne cantans*).
„ „ („ „) + St. Helena Waxbill (*Estrilda astrilda*).
Java Sparrow (*Munia oryzivora*) + Ribbon Finch (*Amadina fasciata*)
„ („ „) + Af. Silverbill (*Aidemosyne cantans*).
Mannikin, Black-headed (*Munia atricapilla*) + Chestnut Finch (*M. castaneithorax*).
„ „ „ („ „) + White-headed Mannikin (*M. maja*).
Mannikin, Bronze (*Spermestes cucullata*) + Magpie Mannikin (*Amauresthes fringilloides*)
„ „ („ „) + Rufous-backed Mannikin (*M. nigriceps*).
„ White-headed (*Munia maja*) + Black-headed Mannikin (*M. atricapilla*).
„ „ „ („ „) + Chestnut Finch (*M. castaneithorax*).
„ „ „ („ „) + Cutthroat (*Amadina fasciata*).
„ „ „ („ „) + Parson Finch (*Poephila cincta*).
„ „ „ („ „) + Striated Finch (*Uroloncha striata*).
Silverbill, African (*Aidemosyne cantans*) + Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*).
„ „ („ „) + Olive Finch (*Phonipara lepida*).
„ „ („ „) + Indian Silverbill (*A. malabarica*).
„ „ („ „) + St. Helena Waxbill (*Estrilda astrilda*).
„ „ („ „) + Sharp-tailed Finch (*Uroloncha acuticauda*).
„ „ („ „) + Spice Finch (*Munia puntulata*).
„ „ („ „) + Striated Finch (*Uroloncha striata*).
„ „ („ „) + White-headed Mannikin (*Munia maja*).
„ „ („ „) + Zebra Finch (*Tæniopygia castanotis*).

Silverbill, Indian (*Aidemosyne malabarica*) + Bib Finch (*Spermestes nana*).

„ „ („ „) + Chestnut Finch (*Munia castaneothorax*).

Waxbills, Grey, (*E. cinerea*) + Orange-cheeked (*Sporuginthus melpodus*).

„ Orange-breasted (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*) + Avadavat (*Sporaeginthus amandava*).

„ „ „ (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*) + Firefinch (*Lagonosticta minima*)

„ St. Helena (*Estrilda astrilda*) + Grey (*E. cinerea*).

Weaver, Rufous-necked (*Hyphantornis cucullata*) + Spotted backed (*H. spilonotus*).

(*To be continued*).

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that members from all round the coast will note the movement of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—*on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend*.—Ed.

A Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) was picked up dead near here on January 21st. W.S., Brighton, 23/1/'13.

From December 28th till January 5th, three Siskins frequented this garden, feeding close to the house on seeds of *Cupressus Lawsoniana*. They were very tame and allowed us to approach quite close to them without taking fright.

E.F.C., Lyndhurst. 9/1/'13

January. Bad weather for observing, but can add the following to my December list: Moor-hen, Coot, Common Gull, Curlew, Wren, Missel-Thrush, Stonechat, Hedge Accentor, Long-tailed, Great, and Blue Tits, Pied Wagtail, Tree, Meadow, and Rock Pipits, and Greenfinch. Chaffinches are still in separate flocks, but a pair were seen on 21st. Stonechats and Tree Pipits now pairing. Cock Robins are excessively numerous, and in full song. No other songsters. Hen Robins scarce. An immense flock of Starlings, flying high, arrived on 12th, at 4 p.m., apparently from the south.

D.L., Salcombe, Devon. 24/1/'13.

January 10—Seven Hawfinches seen on Poplar tree near house—rather unusual visitors to our town garden.

B. H. S. (Ipswich). 5/2/'13.

January 22—Starling seen hanging from a branch of an apple tree. On capturing it, it was found to have some thin string wound several times round its body and the loose end had become securely fastened to the branch.

The bird had a peculiar malformation of the beak. The upper mandible, which was $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long, was bent sharply to the right about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the end. The lower mandible was greatly extended, measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length. The bird was well nourished, which was the more curious as, from the appearance of the bill it must have had great difficulty in feeding.

B. H. S. (Ipswich). 5/2/'13.

Editorial.

The Nesting Season: From a private letter we glean that our member Mr. W. A. Bainbridge, has a young Diamond Finch (*Steganopleura guttata*) on the wing which left the nest on January 21st; Diamond Doves are incubating and in the indoor bird-room, Cuban and Fire Finches are ready to leave the nest, and Bicheno's Finches are incubating.

In Dr. Gosse's aviaries, Cutthroats, Zebra Finches, Redrump Parrakeets, Madagascar Lovebirds, and Budgerigars, are engaged in the duties of incubation.

Breeding Medal Regulations: When these regulations were passed at the November Meeting of the Council, it was understood that at some suitable date ahead of the next breeding season, we should fully explain what was required, to qualify for a medal.

Before proceeding to do this, it would perhaps, be better to state the object that led to the adoption of this scheme. It was threefold.

I. It was to stimulate competition and rivalry in the breeding of all species of birds under natural conditions. Mr. W. T. Page giving the first twelve medals to start the scheme.

II. To encourage the methodical taking of notes and the publication of these periodically in the Club Journal (incidentally increasing its interest by the publication of such detailed account) which not only elevates bird-keeping to an actual cult, but should add materially to our knowledge of the life histories (domestic economy, etc.), of the species we keep.

III. To give an object and aim to bird-keeping, increasing our membership therefrom.

Up to December 31st, 1911, it was left with the Editor to decide the awards, referring any disputes or differences of opinion to the awards committee. Further than this, with the past we have nothing to do—in a measure we have achieved our object—emulation has been stimulated—many who never published their aviary episodes have done so—others have a sustained interest in aviculture they had not before.

At a Council Meeting held in October, 1911, it was agreed to leave certain sections of the work, including medal awards, in the hands of the respective committees, each to have a secretary, and a list of these committees was given in "B.N.," Feb., 1912.

The basis on which the awards have been made is as follows:

Unobserved Events—that is events, which occur in all aviaries occasionally, whereby the young are reared without the aviarist even being aware which nest they emanated from or knowing anything about how or what birds reared them—such events are not eligible for medals, *and during the past year we are not cognisant of having recognised any claim for such.*

That such details must be supplied as shall satisfy the committee, that the young birds, for which a medal has been awarded, have been in the care of and fully reared by their respective parents—that is sufficient data must be supplied to show that the aviarist has seen the parent birds go to their nest for incubating and feeding purposes, and heard the young calling for food therefrom. Such details have been supplied during the past year, though several articles concerning some 1912 records have yet to appear.

These are the principles which have governed, and will govern, the medal awards during the coming year. For the benefit of new members, we reprint the regulations below:

1.—SPECIES: The young must be reared to be independent of their parents. When hatched and reared by artificial means, or by foster-parents the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the case of parasitic species.

2.—HYBRIDS: For any cross not previously reared between any two species; the domestic Canary as one of the parents alone being excepted. A cross between any two species is only once recognised, e.g., Parson Finch + Long-tailed Grass-finch and Long-tailed Grassfinch + Parson Finch. are reckoned as the same hybrid, and whichever was secured first would hold the record. Foster parents barred.

3.—As detailed an account of the success as possible must be sent for publication in "Bird Notes," as soon as possible after the young are fending for themselves.

It has been suggested that all awards should be made at the end of the season and after all the accounts of the respective events have been published in the club journal —this course will most probably be followed, as the suggestion will be submitted to the next Council meeting.

We venture to hope that all our members will aim, not merely at securing sufficient data to secure the medal, but at obtaining the utmost data possible of all the birds they keep—with the aid of the breeding list published in our last volume all should know when they are probably entitled to a medal for breeding a Species or Hybrid for the first time in Great Britain.

The foregoing is merely to explain our position with respect to the medals, and we sincerely hope members will periodically send in records of Aviary Episodes, etc., and not merely consider the medal events alone as worthy of a place in our Magazine; there is much of interest yet to record of species which have been bred regularly for some years past. A pregnant question for all is: Do we contribute as many new data as we can annually, or is there any attempt made to solve questions of ornithological interest, as we might (ought to) do?

ERRATA: Page 1, line 5, from top, after sub-species, delete *and*.
„ 27, line 8 from top, for "Razor-bill Gull," read
„ 11, line 5 from bottom, for "specimens" read *individuals*.
Razor-bill (*Alca torda*).
„ 28, line 3 from bottom, for "(*P. schisticops*)" read (*P. schisticeps*).
„ 28, line 11 from bottom, for "major" read *Major*.

Correspondence.

BUDGERIGARS AND MENDELISM.

Sir,—I am much interested in the Mendelian Theory of Heredity, and am anxious to prove whether it will turn out to be true in the case of the Budgerigar and its yellow variety. I propose, therefore, during the coming season, to put up a few pairs *in separate breeding places* (this is very important), and record the results. If the yellow variety (designated Y in the appended table) is *dominant* over the type (designated G), the results in the first generation should be.

† (1) ♂ G + ♀ Y = all G of both sexes, there being called heterozygotes.
* (2) ♂ Y + ♀ G = all ♂ G (heterozygotes) and all ♀ Y.

If these results come out true, it will be possible to utilise the heterozygotes (H.) in order to prove further that:

(3) ♂ H + ♀ H = all ♂ G, but ♀ half G and half Y.
(4) ♂ H + ♀ Y = half G and half Y, of both sexes.
(5) ♂ Y + ♀ H = all ♂ G and all ♀ Y.

It will be noticed that the results of the two pairings (2) and (5) are identical.

The sixth possible combination ♂ Y + ♀ Y *should* produce all Y, and as from my rather limited experience I find this to be the case, I am quite hopeful that the results of the other five pairings will corroborate the Mendelian Theory.

If any of my fellow-members feel inclined to carry out collateral experiments, and publish the results, they would be conferring a favour on Mendelians, who are a rapidly increasing sect of scientists. It is, of course, of primary importance to start the experiments with *pure greens*, i.e., not with heterozygotes, and I would suggest birds imported direct from Australia, as necessarily fulfilling this condition. The Yellows should be of a pure yellow tint, rather than of a greenish yellow. (REV.) G. H. RAYNOR.

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† ♂ = male; ♀ = female.

* Roughly speaking, a heterozygote is a green Budgerigar with yellowness concealed in it.

Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon.
Jan. 27th, 1913.

INDIAN WHITE-EYES.

Sir,—I am much pleased with the plate of *Zosterops palpebrosa* in January "B.N."—a bird that I am well acquainted with in the wild state although I have not yet found its nest. The colouration of the plate strikes me as very good but unfortunately I cannot at present compare my skins with it as they are up in Suffolk. I have been looking up my notes but find that there is nothing of value in them except that they emphasise the position of the species as a winter visitor only to the Punjab and N.W. Frontier Province, whereas I believe, in other parts of India it is resident. In Rawal Pindi district it is a very numerous species during the cold weather, being found in large parties, which spend their time in busily searching for food on trees and bushes, keeping up a constant chirping note; on one occasion I saw a party mobbing a small Owl (probably *Glaucidium radiatum*). In Ferozepore district further south the species was also common in the cold weather; there, however, I noted that individuals as well as flocks were to be met with—a fact that I had not noticed in Rawal Pindi; this may, however, have been due to the fact that I was then better acquainted with the species.

I did not fix the date of arrival of the species, but noted that it was already common at the beginning of December; the last flock noted as seen was on March 3rd. These dates would probably be extended, as Capt. Whitehead in his Birds of Kohat, "Ibis," 1909, says that the species arrives there in August but does not become common until October, leaving about the middle of April.

On one occasion I saw a pair of these tiny birds resting side by side (after the manner so beloved of small aviary finches) on a twig in the middle of a thick bush. Needless to say they are extremely difficult to spot when not on the move.

Should any foreign member of the Society care to exchange foreign eggs, and, more especially, skins for others from the Punjab I should be very happy to hear from him. At present I would only exchange the commoner species.

HUGH WHISTLER,
(Indian Police).

Battle, Sussex.
24th January, 1913.

ODD BIRDS—MEMBERS' EXCHANGES.

Sir.—No doubt many of our members have several odd birds which they are desirous of either selling, exchanging, or buying the opposite sex. I have at present about 30 such birds, and I suggest our members having similar stock should advertise same, say in our March number, a convenient date to exchange (middle to end of March); if for disposal only the price should be given. I, for one am anxious to pair several of my birds, as odd ones are a nuisance in an aviary, and with many such birds, an enclosure where they can be kept from mischief is necessary where breeding is desired.

The advertisements could run somewhat so: Cocks, Indigo 10s., Cutthroat, 1s. 6d., Zebra-Finch 4s., etc., Hens, Rufous-tailed Grassfinch 10s., Magpie Mannikin 5s., etc. Pairs Red-headed Gouldians 30s., etc. If those having odd or duplicate pairs for disposal or exchange will adopt this suggestion, I feel sure it will be a success.

Cleethorpes, 3/2/'13. R. SUGGITT.

We suggested in last volume a Members' Exchange Column and offered to commence such under Bird Market, at the nominal rate of one penny for each species; this rate to include the address, and this offer still holds good.—Ed.

The L.P.O.S. National Show.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

This event, which practically closes the show season 1912-13 took place from February 7th to 11th inclusive, and for once was favoured with spring-like weather. The Foreign Section was not as large as usual, but some rare and beautiful birds were staged by our members, some sending quite large teams.

Mr. A. Ezra exhibited the following, all in exquisite condition: Abyssinian Lovebird, Vinaceous Firefinches, Blue Chaffinch (*F. teydea*), Chilian Siskin, Sepoy Finch, Amethyst-rumped Sunbird, Short-billed Minivet, and Japanese and Loo-choo Robins.

Miss Lydia Clare exhibited perfect specimens of Queen Alexandra's and Hooded Parrakeets.

Mr. W. Edmunds—Many-colour (one of the best coloured birds I have ever seen), Barnard's, and a Hybrid Pennant's Parrakeets,

Rev. G. H. Raynor exhibited three *Poeocephali*, viz., Senegal, Meyer's, and Aubry's Parrots, the last named being very rare.

Miss M. Bousfield exhibited some nice St. Helena Waxbills, B.H. Gouldian Finches, Festive Tanager (♀), White-capped Tanager, and Yellow-winged Sugarbird.

Miss A. M. Smyth also exhibited an interesting series of birds—Black-cheeked Lovebirds, Virginian Cardinal, Japanese

Hawfinches, and a Red-breasted Marsh-bird.

Mr. Frostick had out good specimens of: Red-rumped Parrakeets, Virginian Cardinal, Tri-coloured Tanager, and an exquisite Hunting Cissa.

There were a number of other beautiful exhibits by our members and others :—Red-collared Whydah, Red-naped Lorikeet, Barraband's, King and Crimson-wing Parrakeets, Leadbeater Cockatoo, Red-vented Parrot, Black-headed Siskins, Rainbow Bunting, Cape Sparrow, Cuban Trogon, Glossy Starlings, and many others—a feast of beauty for all.

We noticed the absence of the names of many well known exhibitors from the catalogue, such as the Hon. Mrs. Bourke, C. T. Maxwell, S. M. Townsend (owing to indisposition), F. Howe, R. Watts, and others.

The Foreign Section, though smaller numerically than usual, contained many beautiful and rare birds, some of great interest and won much admiration and enquiry from the visiting public, while the catalogue values were a source of wonder to some and amusement to others.

The date of the show comes too near our date of publication to permit a full report in this issue, but in March issue I hope to give a few notes of the rare species and a list of prize winners.

To be Continued.

Post Mortem Reports

See Rules on page iii. of cover.

BLUE CUBAN FINCH. (W. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts.) Post mortem examination showed a thin breast and an enlarged rather pendulous abdomen. There was peritonitis, the exudate of which had glued all the coils of the bowels together. The liver was enlarged, blackish and friable. The lungs were inflamed.

3 CORDON-BLEUS. (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Tadcaster). There was pneumonia in every instance. It is frequently set up by a change of locality or surroundings. A strange place often weakens the resistance of the system and renders birds liable to develop pneumonia.

LAVENDER FINCH. (Capt. J. S. Reeve, Lincoln). Two *post cards* not answered

BLACKCAP (♂). (G. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge.) The bird was excessively fat; all the organs such as liver, heart, etc., were infiltrated with fat

GOULDIAN FINCH (♂). (Capt. J. S. Reeve, Lincoln). The cause of death was pneumonia.

J. Weir, 1 Oak Cottage, New Milton, Hants. Both birds were excessively fat. You have killed them by feeding them on a too highly nutritious dietary.

HANGING PARROT (♂.) (W. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts). The bird was not a hen. The liver was very much enlarged and infiltrated with fat. The whole carcase was excessively fat.

ZEBRA FINCH (♂). J. Goodchild, Suffolk. Death was due to pneumonia.

CRIMSON FINCH (♀). G. Scott Freeland. Tonbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia.

BIB FINCH (Mrs. A. Storey, Tarporley, Cheshire.) Cause of death, enteritis.

DIAMOND FINCH (♀). (Miss A. Eccles, Ditton Hill). Cause of death, pneumonia.

ZEBRA FINCH. (Lieut, F. M. Littledale, Lydd). Cause of death, pneumonia. Your letter was not under separate cover; in future such will not be answered.

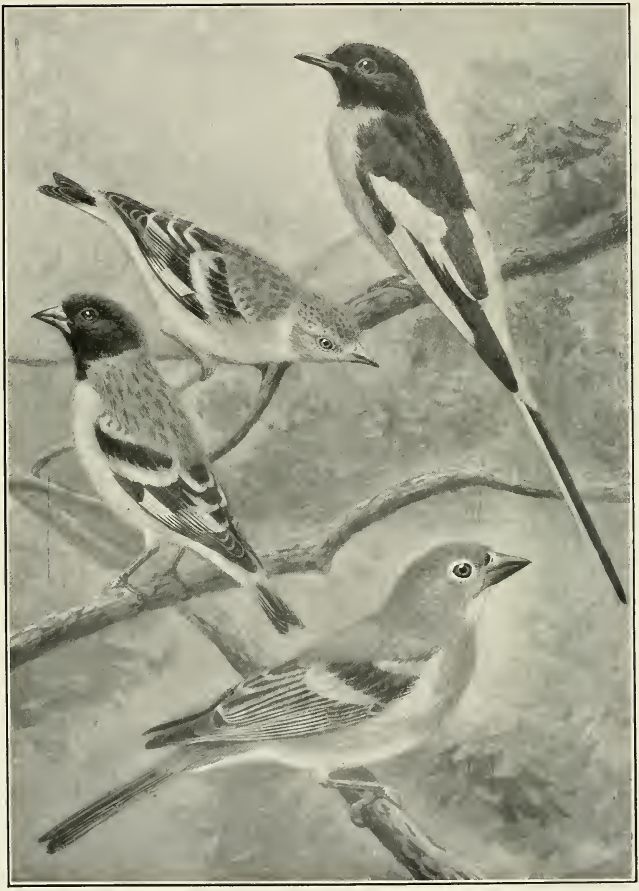
CORDEN-BLEU (♀). (Harvey C. Currey, Littlehampton). Cause of death, pneumonia.

PENNANT'S PARRAKEET (♂). (Mrs. Connell, Brockenhurst). The lungs were inflamed and the bowels were impacted with material suggesting that the bird was constipated. No doubt the cold changeable weather is trying to birds in confinement. Sorry I have had at last to enforce the rules governing the post mortem examinations.

Rosslyn Mannering, Southfields. Rules not observed.

Answered by post—James Yealland, R. S. de Quincey. Viscountess Malden, Miss Rosie Alderson.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S



From life by H. Goodchild.

Some Interesting Foreign Species at the National Show.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The L.P.O.S. National Show.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

FOREIGN BIRD SECTION.

Continued from page 63.

Some of the principal birds enumerated in our last issue having already been fully described in "B.N.," *e.g.* Vinaceous Firefinches, Sepoy Finch, Chilian Siskin, Amethyst-rumped Sunbird, Japanese and Loo-choo Robins, and many others—it must suffice to say that those not given special notice, for above reasons, were perfect specimens of their kind.

I propose therefore to deal fairly fully with the classes in lieu of lengthy descriptions here, excepting the species figured on our frontispiece, viz.:—

Top (right) figure: Short-billed Minivet (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*).

Middle (left) figures: Black-headed Siskins ♂, ♀ (*Chrysomitris icterica*).

Bottom figure: Blue Chaffinch (*Fringilla teydea*).

SHORT-BILLED MINIVET (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*): This brilliant genus consists of some fifteen species, which are confined to India and Eastern Asia. They have close affinity to the Shrikes, and in the "Cambridge Natural History; Birds" they are placed in the Fam. *Campephagidae* (Cuckoo-Shrikes), with a note that they are possibly connected with the *Muscicapidae* or *Corvidae*. All the fifteen species are of brilliant colouration, except two—sheeny black and scarlet—black and orange,—black and yellow, in varying range of hues, being the principal colours of the males. The specimen, figured by Mr. Goodchild on our frontispiece, has moulted out a sort of pinkish white, but the natural colour of the light areas in drawing, is flaming scarlet.

Adult male: The upper parts, also the sides of the head and throat are mostly sheeny black, including the wings, with a few variations, viz.: rump and upper tail coverts crimson—coverts and flights tipped and blotched with red; tail, the central feathers glossy black, the outer ones entirely red, the others with the outer webs mostly red; the under parts are flaming crimson. Bill and legs black; iris ruddy brown; total length 7¼ inches, tail 4.

Adult female: Frontal band, rump, upper tail coverts, and the entire under surface bright yellow; upper parts greyish green; wings and tail brown, the coverts and quills more or less tipped and blotched with yellow, the tail is also much variegated with yellow.

It breeds in the Himalayas; the nest is cup-shaped, constructed of fine twigs and grass and covered with cobwebs and lichen (Oates). The clutch varies from three to five, the eggs are whitish with red and purple markings. In a state of nature the birds live on insects.

Mr. A. Ezra kindly supplies the following concerning his bird: "The Minivet was one imported by Mr. Frost from India last "summer, and was purchased as a hen, showing no colour whatso- "ever. After the moult he was in his present plumage, which shows "that the young cocks do not come into full colour till in their "second year. I feed him on ants' eggs, and dried flies, with a "few mealworms cut up and mixed with the food: he will also eat "lettuce cut up in small pieces and chickweed. He simply revels "in mealworms and fresh ants' eggs. . . . He is the nicest "pet I have ever had, flying about my room just like a Swallow, "and flies round and about the other cages most skilfully; will "follow the mealworm tin all over the room, and fly any distance to "take one from my fingers. He is not very keen on a bath, but "likes to be sprayed—has no song, but calls occasionally. . . "He has no fear of any of the other birds, nor does he show any "inclination to attack them. He is on quite friendly terms with the "Chilian Siskin. He returns to the cage without trouble when he "has been out long enough. He is indeed, a most charming pet."

Blue Chaffinch (*Fringilla teydea*): This lovely species also exhibited by Mr. A. Ezra, is confined to the Pine Forests of the Island of Teneriffe and only occurs at a high altitude. It is very rare, though it has been known to aviculture since 1890, or thereabouts, and young were successfully reared in the aviaries of Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo in 1894 or 1895. It is quite hardy and can be kept out of doors all the year round.

The Blue or Teydean Chaffinch is larger than our English species (*coelebs*), but in contour and demeanour, is a typical Chaffinch. The male is rich grey-blue, with an almost complete white ring round the eye; the female is greenish-brown, lightly washed with bluish.

Mr. Ezra has kindly sent me the following notes concerning the cage life of the specimen, so ably depicted by Mr. Goodchild on our frontispiece.

> "The Blue Chaffinch, as you know, is a very rare bird, and "only to be found in the forests of the Island of Teneriffe. I "feed him like any other seed-eater, with seeds, greenfood, and a "few mealworms, also a small piece of sponge cake. He has a "song, which is not very pretty, but all the same he makes a nice "pet."

BLACK-HEADED SISKIN (*Chrysomitris icterica*): A most interesting species which has been bred in captivity by our member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, a detailed account of which appeared in *Bird Notes*, Vol. III., N.S., page 4. It is a species which has never been really common on the English market, and much less so of late years. It is a most pleasing cage or aviary bird, and in good plumage both sexes are really handsome birds. A reference to the figures on our frontispiece, which I consider exceptionally well drawn, will make a detailed description unnecessary, if I simply say that the light areas are bright yellow; medium, olive green, and the others, blackish-green or black; the hues of the female are all a trifle greyer and she lacks the black-head of her mate. It is a native of Argentina and Brazil.

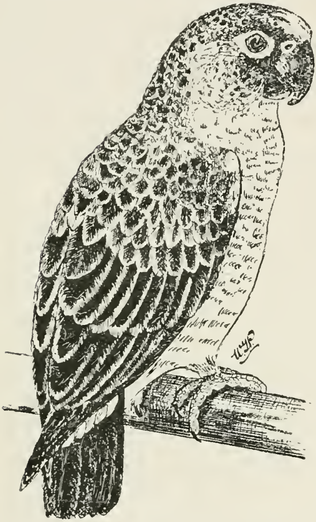
The Parrot and Parrakeet classes were judged by H. T. T. Camps, F.Z.S., and the others by W. Swaysland.

BUDGERIGARS AND LOVEBIRDS (4): The 1st prize went to Mr. Ezra's rare Abyssinian Lovebird (♀), 2nd to Miss A. B. Smyth's Black-cheeked Lovebirds, while the 3rd and 4th went to pairs of Yellow Budgerigars, S. M. Davis and Colville and Sons—the smallest class for many years.

PARRAKEETS, LORIKEETS, AND LORIES (12): Nothing new, but a grand lot of birds, not an ill conditioned bird among them.

1st and two specials Miss Lydia Clare, Queen Alexandra's Parrakeet; 2, same owner's Hooded Parrakeet (*P. cucullatus*), both birds of rich colour, and very steady; 3 W. Edmunds, Many Colour Parrakeet, one of the best the writer has seen; 4 Christer and Son, Red-naped Lorikeet; v.h.c. (2) G. Fletcher, Barraband's (beautiful colour) and King Parrakeets; h.c., Miss Wade, Crimson-wing Parrakeet; c. W. Baxby, Alexandrine Parrakeets, Red-rumped, Barnard's and a hybrid Pennant's also competed.

PARROTS, COCKATOOS, AND MACAWS (9): Nothing really new, as the rarity of the class, Rev. G. H. Raynor's Aubry's Parrot (*Poeocephalus aubryanus*) having previously appeared at the L.C.B.A. Show in November last; this specimen is quite a young one and will show the distinctive colouration of the species more clearly after another moult. Many visitors took it for a Jardine's and one or two were rather indignant at being told it was not. The accompanying fig. I made at the show, completing it at Hazeleigh, where I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Raynor's four representatives of *Poeocephalus* viz., *meyeri*, *senegalensis*, *aubryanus* and *robustus*, at home, and very much "at home" they were too, both with their owner and their quarters—the room they occupy is never heated at all, and on February 21st and 22nd, they were out of doors for an airing, though the thermometer only registered 32 degrees F. on either day. I never saw a group of birds more fit and hard in every way; but I must not linger here, as Aubry's Parrot was fully described in our last vol. The Meyer's Parrot was looking as well as ever, while the Senegal was one of the best coloured birds I have seen. Another exhibit, a Leadbeater's Cockatoo was also very fine, not a feather out of place; an uncommon Red-vented or Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) was catalogued as a Blue-necked Parrot.



1, 2, and h.c. Rev. G. H. Raynor, Meyer's, Senegal, and Aubry's Parrots, in the order given, the latter rather hardly treated; 3 and v.h.c. J. C. Schulter, Leadbeater Cockatoo, and Grey Parrot; 4, L. M. Wade, Red-vented Parrot; v.h.c., J. Ditchfield, and c. G. W. Ballington, Blue-fronted Amazons.

CERTAIN NAMED SPECIES (11): Not a large class, and not calling for special comment, save to note the excellent plumage and condition of all the exhibits, and most of the unnoticed birds were fully equal to those receiving the awards.

1 and 2, A. C. Young, Diamond and Parson Finches; 3 Miss Bousfield, St. Helena Waxbills; 4 T. J. Hose, Gold-breasted Waxbills; v.h.c. E. Hattersley Zebra Finches; h.c. G. W. Leavers, and c., Mrs. Frostick, Diamond Finches. Bib Finches, White-headed Mannikins and Green Avadavats were also staged.

GRASSFINCHES, ETC. (10): All well known birds, the pick of the class being Mr. Ezra's exquisite pair of Vinaceous Firefinches, an uncommon Red-collared Whydah, and lovely pairs of Blue-breasted Waxbills and Ruficauda Finches.

1, A. Ezra, Vinaceous Firefinches; 2, J. Chadwick, Red-collared Whydah; 3, Miss Bousfield, B.H. Gouldian Finches; 4, Miss Blackhouse, Gouldian Finch; v.h.c., and c., Andrews, Bros., Ruficauda and Red-headed Finches (the former might have been higher); h.c., Mdme. Feist Madewell, Red-billed Weavers. Blue-breasted Waxbills (very hardly treated), and a Marsh Bird, which should have been "wrong classed," also competed.

GROSBEAKS, ETC. (14): Best filled class of the Foreign section and containing some beautiful and rare birds. The principal birds here have been already noticed, but it was somewhat of a mystery how Mr. Ezra's rare Chilian Siskin failed to catch the judge's eye, and in the writer's opinion the first and second prizes should have been transposed. Miss Smyth's interesting pair of Japanese Hawfinches were a handsome pair of birds and very steady.

1 and 2, A. Ezra, Sepoy Finch and Blue Chaffinch, both rare and interesting birds, but the former lacking the beautiful scarlet of the wild bird, the latter beyond praise; 3, Miss A. B. Smyth, Japanese Hawfinches (*Eophona personata*), very attractive and steady; 4, Miss Dooly, Rainbow Bunting, rich colour and perfect condition; v.h.c., Mrs. E. Greene, an excellent pair of Black-headed Siskins; h.c., J. Frostick, Virginian Nightingale, very rich colour and steady; c., L. J. Arrighi, Cape Sparrow, one of the cleanest and best marked specimens I have seen. Good specimens of Green Cardinal, Chilian Siskin, Red-crested Cardinals, and other Virginian Cardinals also staged.

TANAGERS (5): Some beautiful colouration covered these five entries, but all were well known species.

1 and 2, Miss Bousfield, Festive (♀) and White-capped Tanagers; 3, Mrs. Thynne, Maroon Tanager; 4, P. Arnott, and v.h.c., J. Frostick, Tri-colour Tanagers.

SUGARBIRDS, HONEYSUCKERS, ETC. (5): Another small but interesting class of exquisite and well known species.

1, A. Ezra, Amethyst-rumped Sunbird, the condition of this specimen was beyond praise, its tight and glistening plumage radiating forth ever changing hues according to the play of light; 2, P. Arnott, Yellow-winged Sugarbird, beautiful colour and condition; 3, Miss Bousfield, Yellow-winged Sugarbird; 4, M. Meager, Red-eared Bulbul; v.h.c., J. Yealland, good pair of Yellow-winged Sugarbirds.

All Species, N.O.E.—Small (8): A most interesting class, but the remarkable birds have already been noted several times in our pages, though it would be easy to rhapsodise at length re the Minivet, Japanese and Loo-choo Robins, etc., but space forbids.

1, 2, and 3, A. Ezra, Short-billed Minivet, Loo-choo Robin, and Japanese Redbreast, in the order given, a rare and beautiful trio; 4, Miss A. B. Smyth, Red-breasted Marsh Bird (*Leistes gvianensis*), an interesting exhibit and very steady for such a species; v.h.c., E. Fordred, richly coloured Pekin Robin, apparently colour fed; h.c., J. Yealland, two uncommon Hangnests, probably male and female, but of different species; c., Mrs. Tatten, Silky Cowbird. A pair of Lesser Hill Mynahs also competed and should have been marked "wrong class."

All Species—Large (5): Five interesting exhibits, all practically perfect in every way and very attractive. The Cuban Trogon was much nearer the full natural colour than any I have seen, but was a wee bit soft, probably not quite at home with the prevailing atmospheric conditions of the Palace.

1, J. Frostick, Hunting Cissa, an easy first, beautiful colour and very steady; 2, R. E. Simpson, Cuban Trogon (*Prionotelus temnurus*); 3, E. Hattersley, Long-tailed Glossy Starling—perfect; 4, Hon. C. Agar-Robartes, Greater Hill Mynah—very loquacious; v.h.c., Andrews, Bros., Green Glossy Starling—exquisite plumage.

LIST OF SPECIALS:

Championship Diploma for Best Foreign Bird.—Mr. Ezra's Short-billed Minivet.

Abrahams' Memorial Trophy for Rarest Foreign Bird.—Mr. Ezra's Short-billed Minivet.

Peir Trophy for Best Australasian Bird.—Miss L. Clare's Queen Alexandra's Parrakeet.

C.P. Silver Medal for Best Foreign Bird, other than winners of above.—Mr. Ezra's Amethyst-rumped Sunbird.

5s. (Mr. Ezra) for best v.h.c., Parrot classes.—Mr. Fletcher's Barraband's Parrakeet.

5s. (Mr. Ezra) for best v.h.c., Waxbills and Finches.—Mrs. Greene's Black-headed Siskins.

5s. (Mr. Ezra) for best v.h.c., Tanagers and Sugarbirds.—Mr. J. Frostick's Tri-coloured Tanager.

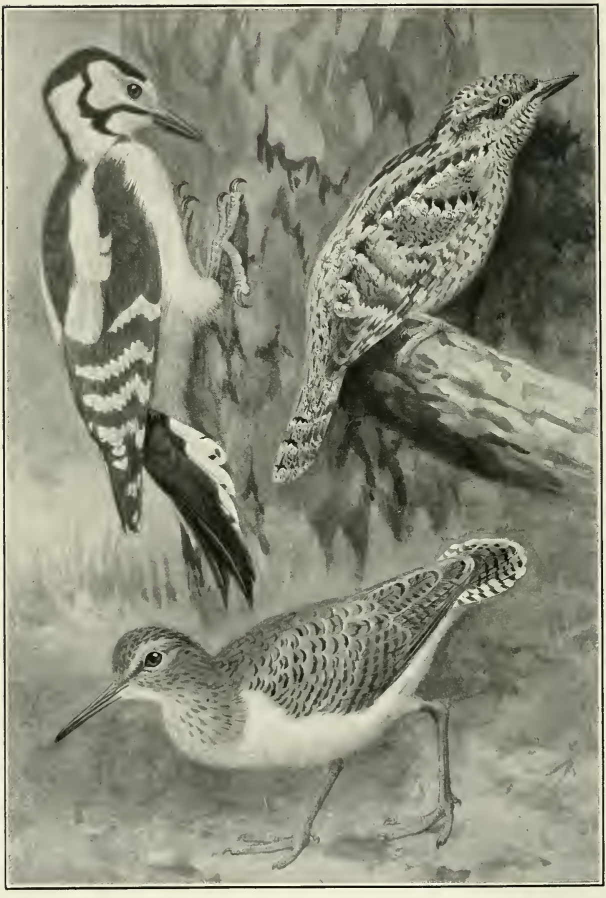
5s. (Mr. Ezra) for best v.h.c., All Species.—Messrs. Andrews, Bros.' Glossy Starling.

C.P. Bronze Medal, for best h.c., Parrot Classes.—Rev. G. H. Raynor's Aubry's Parrot.

C.P. Bronze Medal, for best h.c., Waxbills and Finches.—Mr. Frostick's Virginian Nightingale.

C.P. Bronze Medal, for best h.c., Tanagers and Sugarbirds. — Not noted.

C.P. Bronze Medal for best h.c., All Species.—Mr. Everett's Lesser Hill Mynahs.



From life by H. Goodchild.

Some Interesting British Exhibits at the National Show.

BRITISH BIRD SECTION.

By H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.

On our plate are figured three most interesting species, viz.:
Top (left) figure—Great Spotted Woodpecker (♀) *Dendrocopus major*-Linnæus).
Top (right) figure—Wryneck (*Iynx torquilla*, Linnæus).
Bottom figure—Sandpiper (*Totanus hypoleucus*, Linnæus).

The British birds at the Palace, numbering all told 567 entries, contained as usual, many species, interesting to both aviculturists and ornithologists. Most of the entries, of course, were of the commonly kept seed-eating species; thus Bullfinches numbered 33, Goldfinches 35, Linnets 25, Chaffinches 19, Greenfinches 24, Lesser Redpolls 25, Mealy Redpolls or Twites 25, Siskins 26, Bramblefinches 8, Hawfinches 17, Yellowhammers 20, other Buntings 25, Song Thrushes or Blackbirds 17, Starlings 5, Magpie, Jay, or Chough 8, Nightingale or Blackcap 6, Skylark 8, Woodlark, Pipit, Tit, etc. 15, Wagtails 8, Woodpeckers, Shrikes, etc. 12, small insectivorous birds 16, and the Pied, Albino, and other abnormal birds 16.

Taking the most interesting species first, those figured in our plate may well be put foremost. The most "out of the way" bird of the lot was undoubtedly the Sandpiper, shown by Mr. J. Lane. This little bird was evidently nervous, and though accommodated with a cage suitable in type for such a bird, and provided moreover with turf to run about on, seemed somewhat ill at ease. It is open to question if a wading bird is suited to cage life, though as they are naturally nimble and active and take a considerable amount of exercise, they undoubtedly might be less suitable for cage or aviary life than they are. Its timidity accounted for its taking fright now and then, when closely looked at, and I was glad to see the veteran attendant providing it with suitable animal food. The Great Spotted Woodpecker (3rd), a female, shown by Mr. J. Yealland, was a very good specimen, being very tame and in perfect condition, also a good colour, the scarlet under-tail-coverts being very bright, and the white generally very pure. Our member, Mr. Millsum, came along with mealworms, and fed it, and remarked to me that he believed it was a hen bird that he had once possessed. Certainly the bird treated him as if it knew and remembered him. This species is not so very easy to see, around London, as the Green species, at any rate in either Epping Forest or Richmond Park.

The last bird on our plate, the Wryneck, shown by Mr. J. Jeffrey, was a nice tame bird, and when the electric lights were turned on, showed some inclination to display. The owner told me that it was accustomed to display when at home, and the writer made a sketch of it, with the tail partly spread, the neck extended, but not quite sufficiently good to be used for our magazine. Unfortunately the bird abandoned its apparent intention of displaying, and the sketch for its portrait had to be made of a comparatively ordinary pose.

Another Wryneck was entered in this class, but was not looking well; four Lesser Whitethroats a Greater Whitethroat, a Grasshopper Warbler, a Willow Wren, a Black Redstart, Common Redstart, two Tree-creepers, and a Wheatear, make up a good class; a Dartford Warbler was an absentee. The same may be said of Mr. Marley's Great Grey Shrike, which was entered but not brought, on account of some difficulty in regard to its feeding requirements. This was a decided pity, as a Shrike of any kind is an interesting bird to a visitor who knows something of ornithology, and Mr. Marley's bird was a good specimen and very tame and fearless—what a bird-artist might call a "good model." "It sat" to the present writer at the Clapham Show, and also at the L and P.O.S. autumn show at the Holborn Town Hall.

The Wagtail class calls for no special mention, but in the Lark, Pipit, the Tit class, were four species of Tit: the Great, Blue, Marsh, and Long-tailed, and also a Hedge Accentor, all shown by our member, Miss Alfreda B. Smyth, who also showed some very interesting birds in the Foreign Section.

In this class were also: A Shorelark, shown by Mr. W. A. Loft (who on one occasion sent the only Shorelark that was to be seen at the Scottish National Show), four cages of Bearded Tits, a Robin, other Long-tailed Tits, and Two Tree Pipits. Skylarks in plenty, with Nightingales, and Blackcaps made a representative display for British Songsters. The ornamental *Corvidae* were represented by three handsome species, the Chough, Magpie, and Jay. The class for hen British Finches contained one bird of special interest, a Little Bunting* This bird, Mr. Walter Swaysland tells me, was caught near the south coast, and so was a genuine British record.

It was in very good condition, but not the type of bird to catch the eye of a judge. The Bunting class contained several Cirl, Corn, Snow, Reed, and Meadow Buntings. The last class in the list to interest our members contained the Albinos etc ; amongst which, a Silver Starling, a Lutino Yellow Bunting White Hedge Accentor, and White Goldfinch were the most interesting. Altogether, a numerous and interesting section, and those of the visitors who studied the birds carefully found ample interest and pleasure. One regrets that the Crystal Palace is so unsuitable for either housing or studying birds.

*This species has been noticed, by the aviary attendant, in the grounds of the L.M. Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants.—Ed.

Leadenham Aviary Notes, 1912.

By Capt. J. Sherard Reeve.

Photos, etc., of the Leadenham Aviaries appeared in "Bird Notes," Vol. I., N.S., pages 341—4. Ed.

April 4. Grenadier Weaver (*Pyromelana oryx*).

(♂) just began to show colour, having gone out about October 7th, 1911; by 23rd (April) he was in full colour.

April 20. RED-CRESTED CARDINALS (*Paroaria cucullata*) had laid one egg, but on 28th, two or three eggs were found broken on the ground underneath the nest, and the birds practically never attempted to nest again; they hatched one young one soon after they were put together in the late summer of 1911. but failed to rear it.

May 8. PECTORAL FINCHES (*Munia pectoralis*): I put a pair (?) of this species out, which, at time of writing (February 1st, 1913) are still out and doing well: these birds spend much time on the ground and roost on or very near it.

CANARY (♀) having paired with a Cape Canary (*Serinus canicollis*) built, but after the third egg I unfortunately had to destroy her.

May 8. Lost a Spicebird after four years out of doors.

June. PAIR ZEBRA FINCHES (*Tæniopygia castanotis*): This pair during June reared four ♂s. On July 24th two more young ♂s appeared, on September 18th, four more young ♂s were on the wing. On October 17th this indefatigable pair were sitting again, in a pigeon hole in the shed, and by November 18th, had four more ♂s and one ♀ on the wing, making, I believe, fourteen ♂s and one ♀ in five months.

June. OLIVE FINCHES (*Phonipara lepida*): A pair of this species in same aviary nearly as prolific! During my absence in June they reared three young ♂s. and on July 14th I found they had young in a nest; by 23rd they had begun building again in a climbing rose and on 24th two young left the former nest; they appear to tear off the top of the nest before the young quit—partly perhaps, to hurry them out and partly to start their fresh nest with! By August 12 they had eggs in a nest in a holly, the ♂ at same time being busy building *another* nest! By August 22nd they had hatched in the holly, and on Sept. 4th three young left the nest. September 20th. they had built again in a flowering currant and by 30th had hatched out, three young leaving the nest on Oct. 11th. Thus in four months they had reared eleven young, which were also nearly all ♂s and so far as I know, except one, all alive at present time; this, in spite of their nests and young being out in the deluging rains of July and August, during which *two months* we had here *over ten inches*! When feeding the young they (especially the ♀) are never still, catching midges all over the wire of the aviary without ceasing, and they appear to rear their young on these entirely at first, using more canary seed as the chicks grow older. Notwithstanding all this hard work of five or six nests, four broods reared and the weather, they appeared none the worse, in fact are as sprightly as ever, and I hope they may do the same this year, but it is almost too much to expect of them! Another pair of Olives in the next aviary reared two young, but one of these and one of above pairs were drowned I believe by the heavy rains. At the next attempt the ♀ of this latter pair became egg-bound; I brought her in and she recovered. They nested again, but did not hatch out any more; on November 29th, the ♂ died; the ♀ is still well and lively!

July 18. CUBA FINCHES (*Phonipara canora*), had reared two young and were again sitting on four or five eggs in a nest built in a hop; on August 2nd they had hatched, but on 4th the nest was empty!

July 23. CANARY (♂) after two other attempts was hatching young in pigeon hole in shelter shed, and on 12th three Grey Singing-Finch x Canary hybrids left the nest; one of these subsequently died, and has been described in "B.N." On September 4th the Singing-Finch was still feeding them, and on 28th one began to sing. I have now got this bird in a cage in the house, and he sings divinely all day.

September 3rd. GRENADIER WEAVER (♂) began to go out of colour. I found that a supposed ♀ Pelzeln's Saffron Finch proved to be a cock after the moult.

October 11th. A ZEBRA FINCH (♂) bred this summer by pair described above, having paired with a bought hen, had three young in nest, which flew on 26th.

MADAGASCAR (*Foudia madagascariensis*) and Napoleon (*P. afra*) Weavers (♂s) began to go out of colour on the last named date, and both of these have been since murdered—the assassin is not yet identified!

Only one other peculiar happening have I to relate, viz., that a Blue-winged Lovebird (♂) and St. Helena Seedeater (♂) struck up a great friendship during the summer and I have seen them sitting together and "kissing" like love-birds!

FAILURES: These include Cutthroats (*Amadina fasciata*), Zebra Doves (*Geopelia striata*), Avadavats (*S. amadava*), Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*), and Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*), all of which had eggs, also St. Helena Waxbills (*Estrilda astrilda*) and Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*), who built. Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons (*Phaps elegans*) have been nesting and sitting ever since they were given to me in July! Have had many infertile eggs, but some have been ready to hatch, which failed from one cause or another; these birds are very fond of worms, also lettuce. A pair of Painted Quails (*Excalfactoria chinensis*) which had been in the aviary for three years never *attempted* to nest! Both have died during the year.

I possess at the present moment just under one hundred birds, and hope these few notes re their doings may be of interest to readers of "B.N."

Birds of Gambia.

BY E. HOPKINSON D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 40.

PARRIDÆ.

Phyllopezus africana. AFRICAN JACANA.

Range. Africa. (*H.L.*).

This bird, the Jito-suseo (=water-chicken) of the Mandingos, is extremely common everywhere on the swamps, where one may often see hundreds on or round a single pool. Their general colour is chestnut brown, darker on back, wings and tail; the head and neck are white with a leaden-blue frontal shield, black eye-streak and yellowish throat patch bordered with black. Their chief characteristic is the enormous length of the toes, which enables them to move easily over the matted grass and other vegetation of their favourite haunts. Length 10 inches. Bill and legs lead-blue.

CHARADRIIDÆ.

In the Gambia we have three common Plovers.

(1) our "Brown Plover" with big yellow face-wattles and short strong wing-spurs—

Lobivanellus senegalensis. SENEGAL WATTLED LAPWING

Range. West and North-east Africa. (*H.L*).

(2) and (3) both black and white.

(2) the bird which shouts at one in the marshes and also haunts clearings and fields; beak and legs black, no wattles, a long black wing-spur, black abdomen =

Hoplopterus spinosus. SPUR-WINGED PLOVER.

Range. West and North-east Africa, S.E. Europe. (*H.L*).

(3) A field (not a swamp) bird; beak and legs pink, a small pink wattle, a nodule instead of a wing-spur, white abdomen =.

Sarciophorus tectus. HOODED PLOVER.

Range. Senegambia; North east Africa. (*H.L.*)

These three are all well known and common throughout the Protectorate. They are usually found in pairs but also sometimes in small parties. The native names, Temmi-tenmo in Mandingo and Wetawet in Joloff apply to all three.

About the occurrence in the Gambia of most of the other members of this family I can give but little certain information and will therefore only for the sake of completeness (as earlier) give a list of those whose range includes our locality with notes of those I feel sure I have seen or shot, and references to the specimens obtained in this country by Rendall (Ibis, 1892, p. 218), and Budgett (Ibis, 1901, p. 481), both of whom made collections here, the former in Bathurst and its neighbourhood, the latter chiefly up-river.

Squatarola helvetica. GREY PLOVER.

Range. Almost cosmopolitan.

1 male, October. (Rendall).

Aegialitis alexandrina. KENTISH PLOVER.

Range. Europe and Central Asia to China and Japan. Africa, India, and Australia in winter. (*H.L.*)

Ae. pecuaria.

Range. Africa, north to Nile Delta. (*H.L.*)

Ae. hiaticula. RING-PLOVER.

Range. Europe, east to Lake Baikal. E. North America (casual). Africa and India in winter. (*H.L.*)

Ae. dubia. LITTLE RING-PLOVER.

Range. Europe and North Asia to Japan. West N. America (casual). Africa, India and Malaya in winter. (*H.L.*)

Small flocks (4 to 6) of Ring-plover frequently seen near Bathurst and the Cape from about December to March; they are probably this species. Rendall obtained one female in April.

Oxyechus forbesi. FORBES' PLOVER.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Gaboon. Equatorial Africa. (*H.L*).

Arenaria interpres. TURNSTONE.

Range. Cosmopolitan.

November 2 (Rendall). I think I saw one at Karawan on the North Bank in January, 1904 and am sure I did at Bakau, November 14, 1908.

Tringa subarquata. CURLEW-SANDPIPER.

Range. North Siberia. Africa, India to Australia in winter. (*H.L*)..

Rendall got "three out of an immense flock" in October. Captain Stanley sent me one he had shot at Boroba in February, 1907, out of a flock of about 30. Twelve flocks of 20 to 30 birds birds came over him, as he was shooting in the evening on the swamp. In January, 1904, on a dry swamp at Karawan I shot several birds which I thought at the time were Knots, but now I believe to have been this species.

T. canutus. KNOT.

Range. Arctic Regions. Africa, India to Australia and New Zealand in winter. (*H.L.*).

T. minuta. LITTLE STINT.

Range. North Europe; North Asia to Lake Baikal. Africa, India, Ceylon in winter. (*H.L.*)

Calidris arenaria. SANDERLING.

Range. Arctic regions. South America, Africa, India to Australia. Marshall Islands in winter. (*H.L.*)

Two October. (Rendall).

Limosa lapponica. BAR-TAILED GODWIT.

Range. Sub-arctic regions from Lapland to the Yenesei. Mediterranean, Senegambia, Sind in winter. (*H.L.*).

Totanus calidris. REDSHANK.

Range. Europe and Central Asia to East Siberia. Africa, India, to Malaya in winter. (*H.L.*)

Met with occasionally along the river during the winter. I shot one in the Upper River in March, 1905. Rendall obtained one in September.

T. nebularius. GREENSHANK.

Range. North Europe and North Asia. Africa, India, and Australia in winter. (*H.L.*)

Rendall got one in September. I shot two at the Cape in November, 1908.

T. stagnatilis. MARSH-GREENSHANK.

Range, South-east Europe to North-east Asia. Africa, India, to Australia in winter. (*H.L.*).

T. glareola. WOOD-SANDPIPER.

Range. Europe and North Asia. Africa, India to Australia in winter. (*H.L.*).

One, November. (Rendall). I saw a bird shot by Captain Sangster in Kombo in March, 1907, which I am practically certain was this species.

T. ochropus. GREEN SANDPIPER.

Range. Europe and North Asia. Africa, India to Malaya in winter. (*H.L.*)

T. hypoleucus. COMMON SANDPIPER.

Range. Europe and North Asia. Africa, India to Australia in winter. (*H.L.*)

" Found in every swamp." (Rendall). The commonest of all the small waders, popularly known here as " snippets."

Numenius arcuatus. CURLEW.

Range. Europe, east to Lake Baikal. Africa, India, South China, Malay Peninsula in winter. (*H.L.*).

N. phaeopus. WHIMBREL.

Range. Europe. Africa, India to Malaya in winter. (*H.L*).

Our " Curlew " are nearly all really Whimbrels, though among them one not infrequently sees the larger longer-billed true Curlew. They abound wherever suitable places occur, and these are common enough. Their favourite haunts perhaps are the low mangrove swamps, the " marigots " of the French, which fringe the first forty miles or so of the river, before the commencement of the closer and more lofty mangrove growth of the next fifty miles.

In such places one finds them in scores and in places where they are not much disturbed may make a fair bag, although always at the expense of much labour and tribulation in the black mangrove mud. Where, however, they are much shot at they are as wary a bird as one can meet anywhere, and the shooting of even a single one is a rare and extremely chancy event. Their Mandingo name is Kunun-kuko.

(*To be continued*).

Aviary Observations.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

I may state at once that this article has been prompted by correspondence with a friend, and has been somewhat hesitatingly entered upon, as I do not love the usual avicultural controversy and am not disposed to indulge those who do, but a statement of methods and their results will be a great gain to all concerned. At present there are supposed to be two "schools," somewhat fancifully called the "old" and the "new." I am not going to give a definition of either, nevertheless there are two methods which stand clearly out as forming, shall we say, the two extremes, viz.:—

1. Boldly making a daily observation of a bird's nest and their progeny, and taking any risk there may be, for the sake of the information gained.
2. Leaving the birds very much to themselves, gleaning what data is possible by unobtrusively observing them from a spy hole, distance, or other means not directly apparent to the birds.

Having thus briefly stated the case, I feel that my purpose can be best served by stating: HOW I OBSERVE MY BIRDS.

First, however, I must emphasize the importance of systematic and methodical observation and note-taking, if our bird-keeping is to be elevated from a mere hobby to an actual cult, and also indicate what I consider the main lines calling for persistent study.

Aviculture should solve many points of the life histories of many species, especially such species as are of a retiring demeanour, concerning whose life histories but little can be learned by the ordinary process of field observation—though much has been done of late years by observers arranging some concealment whereby they are able to watch, the watched being ignorant of their presence.

The points most calling for the attention of aviculturists are roughly as follows :—

1. Character of nest, and do both sexes build?
2. Period of incubation, and do both sexes incubate?
3. Colour of eggs.
4. Description of callow young.
5. Description of nestling plumage.
6. Age young leave the nest.
7. Manner they are fed and what on.
8. Demeanour of parent birds during feeding and rearing.
9. Age young are able to fend for themselves.
10. Age they assume adult plumage and process.
11. Age at which the young have their first nest.

There are many other features which will commend themselves to the thoughtful observer, and every interesting episode should be entered in a book kept handy for the purpose, The demeanour of each species kept should be observed and recorded, and not merely of one individual pair, but the record should be continuous for comparison purposes; for, the records of a single pair or individual, as to amiability and other features of their life prove but little.

Now, how best can we secure this? Observation must be made, or we gain but little for the expenditure of time and money we lavish upon our birds, save a little personal interest and pleasure. When I first began to take up and record the doings of the birds in my aviary, I read other people's methods, as many as I could get hold of, and thought the matter out for myself, carefully weighing what seemed to me the best points of each. Quite early I was called upon to face the question of direct interference with nests and examination of young, or take the other course of making such observation as I could unobtrusively. In other words, should I observe them under the most natural conditions possible, or should I by active interference and bold curiosity, set up even more artificial conditions than the limitations of aviary life enforced? For *myself* I decided on the former course, viz., to practise unobtrusive observation as the principal means to reach the end I had in view, viz., to secure as much information as possible, combined with the most natural conditions my accommodation would permit.

I will illustrate my point by referring my readers to Mr. Willford's beautiful photos of bird life, which have appeared in recent volumes of *Bird Notes*—compare these with the earlier photos depicting similar scenes; in the latter the birds mostly had an alarmed and scared appearance, while in the former the birds are quite natural and unconcerned, whether engaged in the duties of incubation or feeding their young, and so complete has been the success of the hiding-tent and other similar means that time exposures are possible in some cases—it is idle to ask which photos are the most valuable—thus unobtrusively I would glean the life history of the birds in my aviary.

At the same time I have held, and still hold, no hard and fast method, but use every means, which the environment of the aviary permits, and my ingenuity can contrive, to pry as closely into their domestic affairs as is possible without destroying the naturalness of their demeanour.

Now before describing the various methods I have used, among which has been the direct examination of eggs and young, let me state what I have gleaned from this practice and when I have used it.

In the first place, when I have once bred a species, I never hesitate to examine the eggs and the young in the second or following nests, to supply any data lacking from the previous event. At the same time I must confess, that with one exception (Orange-cheeked Waxbill), all the nests I so treated this past season (1912) were deserted in the end, such as:

Olive Finches, Magpie Mannikins, Zebra Finches, and several others—yet on being away from home for a time and others attending to the birds, most of them successfully brought off broods!

A question arises here: What species are there whose nests can be examined without fear of their deserting eggs or young? Well, speaking from an experience extending over more than thirty years, I dare not name a single species, that one can be safe with, not even Zebra Finches or Budgerigars, for though most pairs of these two species will permit almost any amount of familiarity, yet I have lost several nests of both species from this cause, and I may add here that I have bred over sixty different species in my aviaries, most of them for several years in succession.

There are those, who, persistently examine eggs and young for the sake of gaining knowledge as to colour of the egg and the callow young in various stages of growth, and who have succeeded in breeding many species too, but while I admire their boldness in pursuit of the object in view, I ask myself, how many failures have preceded the successful result? Moreover, apart from the points named, such persistent interference with the birds sets up an artificial condition of things, however natural the aviary may be, that renders the demeanour of the adult bird, anything but that of the wild bird in its native haunts.

Now my main object is not to discourage close observation, but to encourage it, neither is it to condemn the methods of others, but I am seeking to show that much valuable data can be secured without direct interference with nests or birds. Moreover, moving in and out among our birds in the aviary disturbs them but little, and for such species as build open, cup-shaped nests at a low elevation, observation is easy indeed; for instance, very many visitors saw the eggs and young of the Indian White-eyes and the parent birds feeding their progeny from a distance of four to six feet, and the birds were not disturbed at all, but would go on foraging for their prey and carry it to their young, taking no notice whatever of those inspecting them; of course I insisted on visitors standing still and not talking (even ladies) while in the aviary

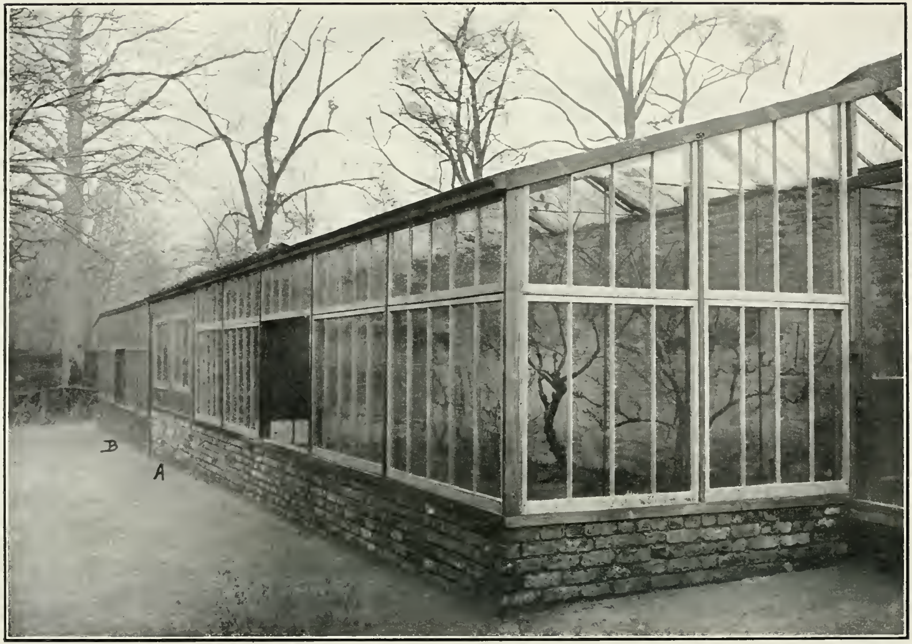
But as for taking steps or ladder into the aviary and climbing up, or regularly mooching among the bushes, putting my finger into spherical nests, etc., these methods I certainly do not practise, and there are few species which I have bred that I have not been able to secure pretty full data concerning them. More I need not say, as the past six volumes of *Bird Notes* contain many, and I need not recapitulate. *Unfortunately* of late years *Bird Notes* has claimed most of the time I used to give to observing my birds.

But this paper is getting altogether too long and discursive: therefore I had better tabulate some of the means I use in addition to those already implied in the foregoing.

1. From the outside of the aviary and the use of field-glasses.
2. By persistent watching for and collection of egg-shells after hatching has taken place, beneath the nests of the birds.
3. By the aid of a hand mirror on a long tube-jointed stick, I have ascertained the colour of the eggs of many species, and also secured descriptions of the callow young. During the past season (1912), I ascertained the contents of a nest at an elevation of 11½ feet, both as regards eggs and the callow young, by this means.
4. By quietly walking about in the aviary, often several times a day, even if only for brief periods, at the same time I never go obtrusively near the bushes or tall herbage which shelters a nest.

In conclusion I would like to add, that careful and persistent observation adds greatly to the zest of aviculture; moreover, I personally consider that aviculturists have a *responsibility* which they ought not to shirk, viz., to supply all the data possible concerning the life histories of the species they keep, and which I maintain, may be obtained without undue interference with the birds. Personally I have not taken undue risks in observing my birds, except in special cases, and then have met with frequent mishaps, and know of many similar mishaps occurring to other aviculturists. This past season a nest of Violet-eared Waxbills in a friend's aviary near here was lost from this cause.

The above has been penned during a period of severe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pressure, but the nesting season is all but upon us and if it induces any to take up the methodical observation of the birds they keep, and others to record the methods they use, I shall be amply repaid for the labour incurred.

The Aviaries at Roundhay Park (Leeds).

By Frank Somers, M.R.C.V.S.

Some two or three years ago, having a good collection of various small Foreign and British Birds in an open aviary, I was tempted to offer them to the Parks' Committee of the Leeds City Council, and they were gladly accepted and a proper aviary built for their reception.

Since I have had the opportunity of guiding the arrangements for their future, I have guarded their interests from time to time, studied their habits and customs and have particularly advised as to the suitability of their feeding. The birds were kept together in one large aviary for more than a year, and they were a charming addition to the Park, delighting the young people, and greatly interesting the older ones. The popularity of the aviary exceeded all expectations, and a larger aviary in a more convenient place has since been constructed with a southern aspect.

The dimensions of the new improved aviary are as follows:

Length 70 feet, width 11 feet, and height varying from 8 feet in front to 12 feet. The entire length of the back is a brick wall, the front is wire netting, covered by movable glass shutters, which protect the birds during the bad and inclement weather of the winter season, and can be removed during spring and summer. The centre compartment (A) is a wooden erection, with glass observation window— for sleeping accommodation—a coke fire on the outside wall keeps the temperature even and warm.

The following is a list of the birds that are at present in the aviary with contemplated additions.

Green and Yellow Budgerigars, Cockatiels, Red-crested Cardinals (*Paroaria cucullata*) Lovebirds, Giant Weaver-birds, Ground Doves, Java Sparrows (grey and white varieties)

Red-billed (*Quelea quelea*) and Black-faced Weavers, Orange Bishops (*Pyromelana franciscana*), Lemon (Napoleon) Bishops (*P. afra*). Red (Madagascar) Bishops (*F. madagascariensis*), Paradise Whydahs, (*S. paradisea*), many varieties of Finches, including: Singingfinches, Silverbills, Golden-breasted (*S. subflava*), Orange-cheeked (*S. melpodus*), and St. Helena Waxbills (*Estrilda astrilda*); Cordon Bleu (*E. phoenicotis*), Combasous (*Hypochera aenea*), Crimson Ears (*E. cinerea*), Cut-throats, Avadavats *S. amadava*), Yellow-shouldered Weaver-bird (*P. capensis*), Canaries of many varieties, and others. The British birds include: Bullfinches, Linnets, Redpolls, and other hard-billed species.

Difficulties have arisen in connection with the delicate foreign Finches, and losses have carried off some birds of handsome colour, such as Cordon Bleus, Firefinches, &c., that were not used to "fogs" and consistently bad weather. Unfortunately birds arriving in this country from tropical climates are in such bad condition that it is impossible to have small foreign birds without having numbers of deaths, before the strongest become acclimatised.

The left-hand side (B) of the aviaries is kept solely for Gold and Silver Pheasants, and Laughing Pigeons from the Holy Land.

I desire to record the valuable help given by Mr. Allsopp, the courteous Superintendent of the Park. and his assistants, in the construction and management—and in the care displayed by attending to the welfare of the birds—and I am conscious "that this aviary in the public park at Roundhay, has been the means of conveying to the people of Leeds and district, a more extensive and accurate knowledge of the habits of many different and beautiful species of small British and Foreign birds, than previously existed.

Birds of the Sal Forest.

By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S.

To my mind the most striking feature of a *sal* forest is the abruptness with which it begins and ends. It does not merge gradually into the cultivated land, but rises up, like an immense building, at the margins of the cultivated fields.

Almost as remarkable as the abruptness with which the *sal* forest begins and ends is its density.

But let me begin at the beginning.

Sal forests are characteristic of the sub-Himalayan tracts of the United Provinces. In olden days the whole of this territory appears to have been covered by dense jungle. Much of this has been removed to make room for cultivation, but a considerable part remains and will remain for many years to come, because the Government of India now appreciates the enormous value of forestry.

In the Pilibhit district, where I am serving, there are 150 square miles of *sal* forest.

This forest is not composed exclusively of *sal* trees, but these constitute about two-thirds of all the trees, and the *sals* are so imposing in appearance that the other trees seem to be crowded out of sight!

The *sal* (*Shorea rubusta*) is characterised by its tall straight trunk, and its dark rich green undivided leaves. It often happens that some short leafy branches grow out of the trunk; this gives the trunks the appearance of being festooned with leaves. The foliage of the *sal* tree, like that of the palm, does not spread very much, hence a large number of *sal* trees can, and in the forest actually do, grow in a very small space.

The ground between the trunks of the trees is overgrown with grasses, which, when allowed full scope, become large enough to cover completely an elephant and its rider. In addition to this there is a good deal of scrub and undergrowth of young trees and bushes. Hence a *sal* forest is very dense, and difficult to penetrate. However, in the Pilibhit district at short intervals there are open glades known as *chandars.* In these the long grasses run riot—they and stunted *sal* scrub constitute almost the only vegetation.

It is not known for certain how these *chandars* were formed. Some think that they are the beds of streams that used to run through the forest and have dried up or changed their course. The fact that streams still penetrate the forest lends countenance to this view, but the irregular distribution of these *chanders* render its acceptance difficult.

It is not improbable that these open glades are parts of the forest, that were cleared by man many years ago. They never get covered with trees because the *sal* seedling is very sensitive to frost. It is killed by the cold of the Indian winter unless it is surrounded by other trees. This is the reason why *sal* trees can establish themselves neither in these open glades nor on the land immediately outside the forest.

The Forest Department has cut broad straight fire-lines through these jungles. The main object of these passages is to prevent a fire spreading throughout the forest, but they also serve as roads. The grass that grows on these during the rainy season is cut in the cold weather and fired, and thus they are kept clear. These dense forests are the abode of many wild animals; tigers, leopards, jungle cats, wild boars, sambur, spotted-deer, swamp-deer, blue antelopes, wild dogs, hyaenas, and porcupines are all found within them.

They harbour many birds, but the tract they cover is so vast and the foliage is so dense, that the casual observer is apt to be surprised at the small number of the fowls of the air that he sees.

The silence of these jungles is very marked in comparison with the noise that prevails in the neighbouring cultivation.

As one rides along a fire-line with the *sal* trees rising up on either hand like great walls, the birds that most frequently show themeselves are Bulbuls of the *Molpastes* and *Otocompsa* species. Wonderful birds are these Bulbuls. Next to the Crows, Sparrows, and Doves, they are the most successful species in India. They are equally at home in the garden, the hedgerow, the grove, or the low jungle, dense forest, and in the long grass of the tarai.

Nearly as numerous as the Bulbuls are the Doves. The spotted species (*Turtur suratensis)* is the most abundant. Ring Doves (*Turtur risorius*), too, are plentiful, as are the beautiful little Bronze-winged Doves (*Chalcophaps indica*), but these last keep as a rule to the densest parts of the forest, and rarely show themselves in the fire-lines. Occasionally a noisy flock of green Parrots (*Palœornis*) flies overhead. The other birds most often seen are the Black-headed Oriole (*Ori-*

olus melanocephalus), the Long-tailed Tree-pie (*Dendrocitta rufa*) and the Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Brachypternus aurantius*).

Amid the long grass stems that cover the open glades pretty little Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*), sprightly Bush-chats (*Pratincola maura*), handsome Crested Buntings (*Melophus melanicterus*) and several species of Warblers disport themselves. The recesses of the forests hold many strange and beautiful birds, especially in winter when a great many Flycatchers and Warblers seek refuge in these forests from the rigours of the Himalayas.

Amid the green foliage flit splendid *Bhimrajs*' or Racket-tailed Drongos (*Dissemurus paradiseus*) and resplendent Blue Whistling-Thrushes (*Myiophoneus temmincki*).

Perhaps the most interesting birds in the forest are the Pied Hornbills (*Anthracoceros albirostris*). These great birds are nearly a yard long, and have the casque pretty well developed. Their flight is very noisy, and the swish of their wings can be heard for a long distance: in contrast to this is the absurdly weak voice, which always puts me in mind of the squeak of a mechanical toy.

Other large birds that haunt the *sal* forests are the Pea-fowl (*Pavo cristatus*), and the Jungle-fowl (*Gallus ferrugineus*); the latter is said never to be found away from *sal* forests.

These two species are most numerous at the edge of the forest or near the clearings in which the houses for the use of forest officers are built.

These two species lie up in the dense jungle. They issue forth to feed in the very early morning, and just after sunset. They then betake themselves to the cultivation on the fringe of the forest where they feed. At such times a field looks very like a farmyard, since in addition to a dozen Peafowl perhaps twenty or thirty Jungle cocks and hens are picking up grains in it. If one can manage to get between such a flock and the forest, one has good sport with the gun, when the birds, being startled, fly to cover. Both species take a lot of lead, and run swiftly.

I was about to say that the *sal* forests are the only places in India that are not haunted by Crows and Mynahs, but this would not be strictly accurate, for these ubiquitous birds are invariably to be found in the neighbourhood of the clearings made for the erection of forest bungalows. In all other parts, however, the jungle is free from these birds and it is the absence of these, quite as much as the presence of Pied Hornbills, Racket-tailed Drongos, and Bronze-winged Doves, which gives the *sal* forest its distinctive character.

Editorial.

THE ENDURANCE OF BIRDS: This should prove a useful topic, if the members would give details of the birds they keep. This winter has certainly been mild, but its ever changing temperature, cold rains, and furious winds have made it a somewhat trying time, out of doors, both for man and beast. Yet time abundantly proves that, given suitably constructed aviaries even the reputably delicate species, e.g., Cordon Bleus, Firefinches, Lavender Finches, etc., can be, and are, so kept in almost every county of Great Britain. Lady Dunleath (Co. Down), informs us that her birds are all doing well, flying out of doors during the daytime, but are shut in the shelter at night. She mentions Waxbills (several species), Cordon Bleus, Avadavats (full colour), and Firefinches as looking particularly happy and fit.

HANGNEST LAYING EGGS IN CAPTIVITY: Lady Dunleath has a common Hangnest (*Icterus vulgaris*), which she obtained quite young at Pernambuco two and a half years ago. It is now quite a pet and accompanies her everywhere: it is also quite an accomplished whistler. Last year it laid three eggs—first two in a cage, which were broken—it was then put in an aviary with a cock Hangnest of another species, of which it would take no notice; however the hen built a nest, laid another egg (infertile)—there the episode ends for the present; but Hangnests have so very seldom laid in captivity that we consider the event worth putting on record.

THE AVIARIES AT THE CRIPPLES' HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE: We have to acknowledge with many thanks the following gifts to these aviaries:

4 Waxbills and a pair of Zebra Finches from H. L. Sich, Esq.

4 Budgerigars, a Cockateel, and a Riga Jay, from H. Snarey, Esq.

1 pair Californian Quail, and a Grey-winged Ouzel, from Wesley T. Page, Esq.

Gifts of Foreign *Fringillidæ* and *Ploceidæ*, a cock Cockateel, and a pair of Blue-wing Lovebirds would be highly appreciated by the Trustees.

AFRICAN SUNBIRDS: Our member, Mr. P. Owen, informs us that he has successfully imported and has still living in his bird-room, specimens of the Malachite Sunbird (*Nectarinia famosa*) and several others including three which are new to aviculture, viz: The Cape Long-tailed Sunbird (*Promerops cafer*), with a tail 14 inches long; Amethyst Sunbird (*Cinnyris amethystinus*), with a crown of metallic emerald-green and a gorgel of shining rosy lilac, which is also the colour of the upper tail-coverts, remainder of plumage black with a rich violet sheen. Orange-breasted Sunbird (*Anthrobaphes violacea*) the principle colouration being metallic green above the resplendant yellow beneath, with washings of orange-red on the chest and upper tail coverts, and two yellow tufts at the shoulders.

We congratulate Mr. Owen on the possession of such rare and beautiful species of an exquisite group of birds.

ERATTA:

Page 37, bottom line, for "*guadricinctus*" read *quadricinctus*
„ 47 line 12 from bottom, for "*diamidiatus*" read *dimidiatus.*
„ 53, line 1, for "*inola*" read *Linota.*
„ 53, line 1, for "*Pyrrlula*" read *Pyrrhula.*
„ 54, line 8, for "*Pocphila modesta*" read *Pocphila personata.*
„ 54, line 30, for "*tans*" read *cantans.*
„ 56, line 4, for "*castaneothorax*" read *castaneithorax.*
„ 56, line 5, for "*Sporuginthus*" read *Sporaeginthus.*
„ 60, transpose line 6 to between lines 3 and 4.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that members from all round the coast will note the movement of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—*on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.*—Ed.

January 27: On this exceptionally early date for this species, a Chiff-chaff was caught in Ireland. It came into my hands, was well nourished, but has since died.

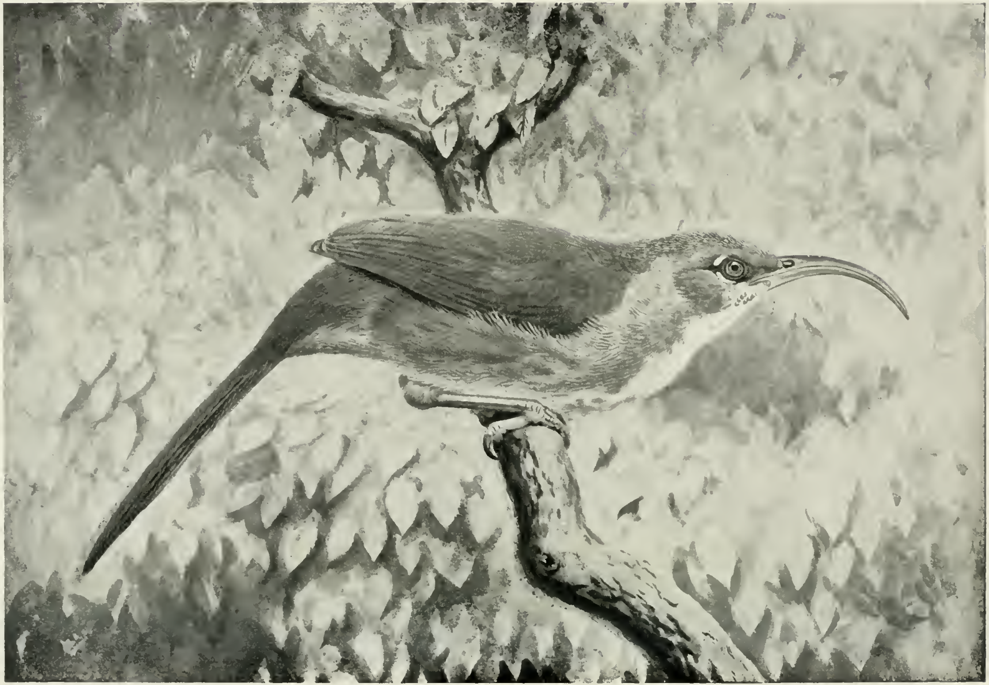
A.S., Feb. 13th, 1913.

Owing to the mild weather there has been very little movement of birds during the last two months. Any notes I have taken, such as large flocks of Knots moving south, have been counterbalanced within a few days by similar movements in the opposite direction, which can only be attributed to a change in the direction of the wind, and consequently were local movements.

Severe weather causes the birds to make longer flights, and recently when visiting a Plover-catcher, who has had very many years' experience, he informed me that in a season like the present he could make a precarious living only, whereas in short sharp periods the Plover moved south when the frost set in and always the day before the break they commence to move north again, and a week of severe weather followed by a mild one was good for the catcher, but, bad for the *birds*; there will, however, be some real movements during March and April, and I sincerely hope many of our members will keep a look-out and report their observations.

R.S. 27/2/'13.

February.—Besides many Curlew, Dunlin, and Wigeon, I have identified a couple of White Stork on the mud-flats. The Perchers are mostly in hiding from our miserable weather. Single specimens of the Chiffchaff, Corn Bunting and Bullfinch, have been seen, and pairs as follows: Song Thrush 10th; Blackbird 13th; Blackcap 4th; Blue Tit 3rd; Wren 10th; Linnet 13th; Jay 28th; Magpie 11th. Small parties of Marsh Tits 2nd; and of Goldfinches 27th. Skylarks and Hedge Accentors were in full song on 10th; Thrushes and Blackbirds warbling on 12th. Rooks and Thrushes are now building. The Black-headed Gull has begun to change his plumage. The migrants so far are represented by a solitary Lesser Whitethroat. D.L. (Salcombe). 28/2/'13.



February.—In the first week of this month the cock Chaffinches were in full song, as also the Song Thrushes. On the 7th a pair of Starlings were busy getting ready a favourite nesting hole high up an old elm. They seemed to be throwing out bits of the old nest. By the end of the month each nesting box in the garden was in possession of a pair of Starlings. Several flocks of Brent Geese have been seen feeding on the shore here all this month, some of the flocks consisting of about one hundred birds. A Sheldrake, marked with a ring as a "flapper" in the summer of 1912 was shot at Saltash in Cornwall on the 10th of February this year. On the same day at 6 a.m. a Song Thrush was found dying at the St. Catherine's Lighthouse, which was found to be, from the numbered ring on one leg, one marked near here on the 25th of April, 1912, as a nestling. The lighthouse keeper reported that an immigration from the south, of Thrushes, had been going on for three days before, and so it seems very likely that this Thrush was coming back to the neighbourhood of its birth: St. Catherine's light being about 20 miles due south of this village. These and other birds, which have since been "reported" were marked with aluminium rings, supplied by the Aberdeen University Bird Migration Inquiry.

P.G. (Beaulieu).3/3/'13.

Book Notices and Reviews.

A SYSTEM OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, by various writers., Edited by E. Wallis Hoare, F.R.C.V.S. In two vols., £2 2s. net. Vol. I. now ready. Price £1 1s. net. London: Bailliere, Tindall, and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

A prospectus of this valuable work has been sent us, and we note that our Hon. Veterinary Surgeon, H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S., is a large (the largest) contributor to Vol. I.

The Editor, in the preface to Vol. I. writes thus of Mr. Gray's share in the preparation of the volume:—

"A large share of the task has fallen to Mr. Henry Gray, who has "not only written on the subjects on which he has specialised, "but also has read the proof-sheets as they passed through the "press, and suggested many useful alterations and additions. His "wide experience of canine medicine has enabled him to write "authoritatively on this subject, and the sections on Canine Distemper, Canine Typhus, and other microbial affections of the dog, "cannot but prove of marked value to practitioners interested in "the diseases of this animal."

From the prospectus this work should appeal to medical men, sportsmen, stockowners, aviculturists, pisciculturists, dog and poultry breeders, cattle, sheep, and horse-owners, and county gentlemen, as well as to veterinary surgeons, for whom the work is mainly intended. The first volume deals with the microbial or contagious diseases.

Correspondence.

THE RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR BABBLER (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*), ETC.

Sir,—In reply to your request for a photo of the nest, which my Rusty-cheeked Babblers have just built, I am sorry that I cannot manage this for you, as a pair of my hybrid Californian Squamata Quail have selected it for a roosting place, and it has now lost all shape. I have not the least doubt but that the Babblers will soon try again; especially if this mild weather lasts. They are very interesting birds, and the cock has already been figured in "B.N." [For the benefit of new readers we repeat the plate.—Ed.]. He is very attached to the hen, and it is amusing to see him with half-a-dozen mealworms in his sickle-shaped bill feeding her. The nest they made was a very untidy structure, the material used being mostly the leaves and fibrous roots of the Artichoke. It measured about eighteen inches across and was six inches deep. It was at first quite open at the top like a Blackbird's nest, but finally they half-domed it, leaving a large opening on the top side. These birds are great foragers, and must find a good deal of their food naturally. I have great hopes of raising young from them this summer.

Another interesting pair of birds that are now nesting are my Black-winged Grackles (*Graculipica melanoptera*). They have built a nest in one of my Parrot nesting boxes; straw, small sticks, paper, etc., were the materials used. Should they go further with it I will let you have particulars. I have also Black-cheeked Lovebirds, Cockateels, Bronze-wing and Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons incubating. The young birds will probably arrive just when our real winter is commencing!

Very truly yours,
WM. SHORE BAILY.

Boyers House, Westbury,
February 9, 1913.

NO PINK BIRDS

Sir,—Has it ever occurred to anyone else, I wonder! Revelling in the exquisite colouring one finds in birds, as I do, how rarely one sees *pink*, or even anything approaching it.

Of *true* pink I can recall indeed but one instance, and that is a few feathers in the nape of one of the Bower Birds, as seen at the Natural History Museum, for I have not seen even that in life. There is the pink in the breast of our old friend the "Rosey" it is true, but even that is of rather a muddy description; then there is the pink *of sorts* in the breast of the Bullfinch, but beyond that I cannot go. Every shade of red and orange is common enough, but only that one instance of true, clear pink that I can recall. I may be mistaken, and this may seem rather nonsense to write about, but any way, it will set members thinking if they can enumerate other instances.

(Mrs.) E. A. H. HARTLEY.

HOODED SISKIN (*Chrysomitris cucullatus*)

Sir,—The young Hooded Siskin (♂) is now five months old and showing the male colouration on breast and abdomen. The colour is at present orange-red, not vermillion, as in the adult male.

Eton, Windsor, (Dr.) M. AMSLER.
February 12, 1913.

FROM ENGLAND TO NATAL.—REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF A SWALLOW.

Dear Sir.—In sending you the attached which I think cannot fail to prove of interest to your readers, I may mention that the readers of "*British Birds*" Magazine have now placed over 32,000 rings on wild birds of many kinds and that this is leading to results of great interest and importance in connexion with the study of birds.

Should ringed birds ever come into the hands of your readers I hope they will notify me at once, stating the name on the ring and the number, as well as the date and place where the bird was found. I will then at once inform them when and where the bird was ringed.

Yours faithfully,
H. F. WITHERBY.
Editor *British Birds*.

Extract from "British Birds," February, 1913.

A SWALLOW RINGED IN STAFFORDSHIRE AND RECOVERED IN NATAL.

The following letter has just reached me:—

Grand Hotel,
Utrecht, Natal,
27th December, 1912.

"Witherby,"
High Holborn, London.

Dear Sir.—On December 23rd, a Swallow was caught in in the farmhouse of the farm "Roodeyand," 18 miles from this town, with a metal label round its leg, with the words: Witherby, High Holborn, London, and on the other side B.830.

The farmer, Mr. J. Mayer, took the label off and has it in his possession. As I am interested in birds of any sort and the migratior of same, I shall be glad to know if you receive this letter safely

Yours truly,
C. H. Ruddock, *Proprietor.*

The ring B.830 was put on an adult Swallow by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield, at Rosehill, Cheadle, Staffordshire on May 6th, 1911. This bird was one of a pair (Mr. Masefield thought the female) which nested in a porch. Its mate was also caught and ringed. At the same time Mr. Masefield ringed another pair nesting in the same porch. In the summer of 1912 he again caught the Swallows which had come to nest in his porch and found that only one of them had a ring, viz. B.827, which was one of the birds nesting there the year before. Neither its mate nor the other pair of which the present B.830 is one had returned to this particular spot.

That this Swallow breeding in the far west of Europe should have reached so far to the south-*east* of Africa as Natal, seems to me extraordinary. Unfortunately the few records we have as yet of ringed Swallows recovered during migration do not afford a clue to the routes taken, and it seems to me unreasonable to suppose that our birds proceed southwards down the east side of Africa, as *might* be inferred from this Natal record.

It is, indeed, quite impossible to theorize on a single recovery of this kind and we must be content at present with the bare fact—perhaps the most startling fact that the ringing of birds has as yet produced.

We are most thankful to Mr. Ruddock for reporting this extremely interesting recovery and we hope that the details of it will become widely known in South Africa and thus produce further results.

H. F. Witherby.

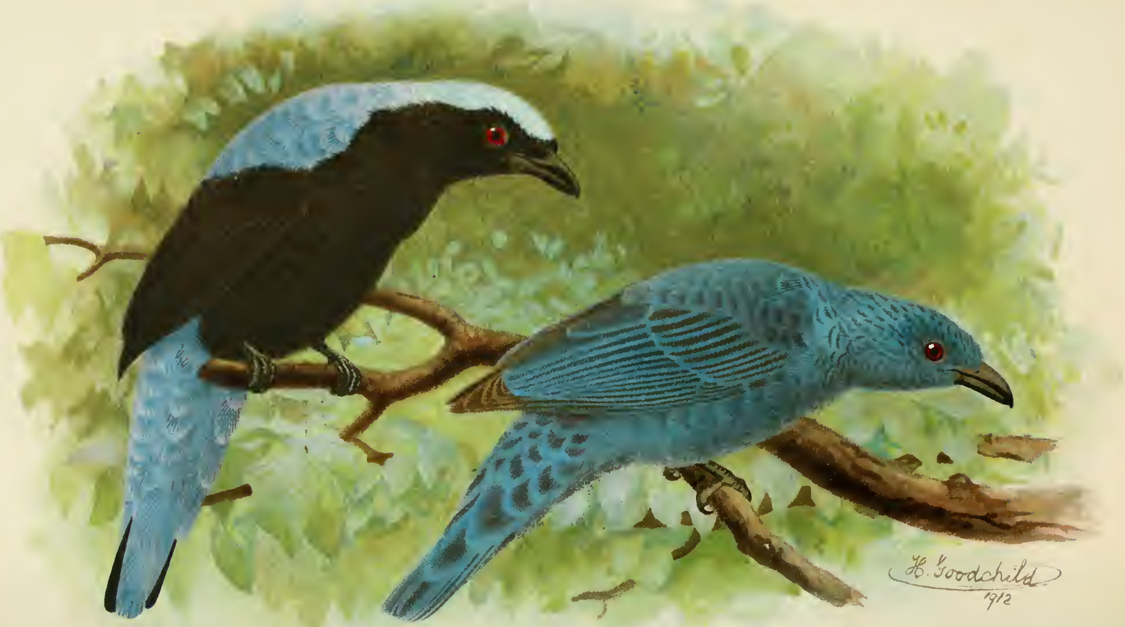
* * *

Post Mortem Reports

See Rules on page iii. of cover.

None to hand at time of going to press, if in time will be included in Green Page Inset.—Ed.

* * *


H. Goodchild
1912

H Goodchild del

Huth, Lith^{r} London.

THE FAIRY BLUE-BIRD
Irena Turcosa.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Fairy Blue-Birds (*Irena*).

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

All the species of *Irena* are called Fairy Blue Birds, and I think all should be given a distinctive name, the title "The Fairy Blue Bird," all, I think, will agree should go to *Irena puella*, and I have suggested for general use names for the other species in the following notes, which cannot be entirely descriptive. The colouration of *Irena* is similar through all the species, but with one or two exceptions the arrangement of the colour areas varies sufficiently to allow of the species being picked out fairly readily. The varying length of the tail-coverts is also distinctive in most of the species.

The genus has a fairly wide range, viz., Ind. Penins., Indo-Chinese countries, Malayan Penins.; Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and the Philippine Islands.

The "key to species" given below is compiled from Vol. III. of the British Museum Catalogue. It should prove of general interest to aviculturists, and enable them to place any specimens of these exquisites which may reach the English market.

KEY TO THE SPECIES.

" *cyanogastra*……	Underneath deep purplish-blue ; mantle same colour.
" *turcosa* } " *criniger* } ……	Underneath black ; under tail-coverts reaching to the tip, or even beyond the tip of the tail.
" *puella*…… " " "	Under tail coverts not reaching to the tip of the tail, falling short by more than the length of the tarsus. Enamelled blue feathers of a purplish shade.
" *tweedalii*……	Enamelled blue feathers of a dull verditer.
" *cyanea*…… " "	Under tail-coverts reaching nearly to tip of the tail, not falling short of it by so much as the length of the tarsus.
	(……*from the Brit. Mus. Cat. Vol. III p. 265*).

I would here remark that all the descriptions except *turcosa*, which is from life, are taken from the skins in the British Museum; the habitat is taken from the Brit. Mus. Cat., Vol. III.

Adult Male: Crown of head, nape, upper and under tail-coverts, lesser and medium wing-coverts rich cobalt blue; back, rump, scapulars, and the whole of the under surface, except the throat and chest, deep purplish blue; greater and primary wing-coverts, quills and tail black; tips of greater coverts and outer webs of inner secondaries rich cobalt blue, central tail-feathers washed with purplish; throat and chest velvety black; bill and legs black; iris red. Total length 10 inches, tail 4½.

Sexes said to be alike. "Habitat: Philippine Island." (B.M.C.).

The Basilian Fairy Blue Bird (*I. melanochlamys*).

Adult Male: Crown of head, nape, and upper hind-neck shining cobalt-blue, with a purplish sheen; lower hind-neck, mantle, and scapulars, rich velvety black; lower back and rump dull purplish-cobalt, upper tail-coverts brighter blue; tail black with the central feathers and margins of outer ones washed purplish; wings black, with the lesser and median coverts purplish blue; the tips of greater coverts and the outer webs and inner secondaries also purplish-cobalt; lores, sides of face, throat, and chest velvety black; remainder of undersurface dull purplish-cobalt; bill and legs black; iris carmine-red. Total length 10 inches, tail 4.

"*Habitat*: Is. of Basilan, Philippines." (B.M.C.).

The Javan Fairy Bluebird. (*I. turcosa*).

To many of my readers this gorgeous species (the same may be said of all) will be fairly familiar from the specimen (♂) exhibited by Mons. Pauvvels, at the Horticultural Hall, November, 1911; from this bird the studies for our frontispiece were made; thus Mr. Goodchild has had ample time to put good work into his drawing. In 1910 I had the pleasure of seeing this bird and its mate disporting themselves in Mr. Astley's aviaries at Benham Valence, but as Mr. Astley himself has written of his birds, I will not occupy space, save to say, that it is impossible to exaggerate their great beauty, and that they were very restless under observation—we essayed to photograph them, but only wasted plates!

The diet of the whole genus in a state of nature is fruit and insects, and a similar dietary, also insectile mixture, should be supplied to it in captivity.

Adult Male: The whole of the upper plumage and under tail-coverts glistening turquoise-blue, the crown of the head paler and with a silvery sheen; forehead, sides of face, tail and entire undersurface rich velvety black; bill and legs black; iris ruby-red. Total length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. (The under tail-coverts extend beyond tip of tail).

Adult Female: Differs from the male, being dull Prussian blue, most of the feathers having dusky centres, washed with cobalt on the rump and upper tail coverts; wings and tail dark brown, the coverts and quills narrowly edged, and the coverts and secondaries washed with blue.

"*Habitat*: Java" (B.M.C.).

The title on frontispiece should be Javan Fairy Blue Bird. This plate has been in course of preparation for a long period, and the popular designation of the genus "Fairy Blue Bird," was then applied to this species before I had looked up the genus.

Our member, Mr. Hubert D. Astley, kindly responded to my request and sent me the following notes of this exquisite species:

"The beautiful pair of Fairy Blue-Birds, which were "brought over by Mr. Goodfellow some three or four years "ago, in a wonderful collection made for Mrs. Johnstone, "came into my possession.

"The female unfortunately met with an accident, "being disturbed, probably by Owls, at night; banging her "head; and although she lived for some time, she never "really recovered, and finally died."

"In captivity these birds are apt to eat too much "and take insufficient exercise, feeding chiefly on banana and "other fruits. They passed two summers in an out-door "aviary, but never attempted to nest, sitting rather sluggishly "in the bushes.

"When the male bird was on the wing, he was a most "beautiful sight, the blue of the Kingfisher being dull com-"pared with his upper parts of brilliant turquoise, which "looked like silk with underparts of black velvet. A lady, "who formerly passed many years in the Malay Archipelago, "told me that these birds are known as Coffee Birds, be-"cause they always put in an appearance in the Coffee "plantations, to feed on the ripe berries. The Fairy Blue "Bird has a melodious twitter, or call note; but I never "heard the male give out any marked song. Their short "legs make them unadapted for hopping on the ground, and "if they flew down for mealworms, they never remained there "longer than was necessary.—Hubert. D. Astley."

THE SUMATRAN FAIRY BLUE BIRD. (*I criniger*).

Adult Male: Top of head, entire upper surface, scapulars, lesser and median wing-coverts, upper and under tail-coverts rich cobalt-blue, very bright and pure on the top of the head; wings (with above exceptions), tail, sides of face, sides of neck and entire under surface black, greater wing-coverts tipped with cobalt, secondaries, and central tail feathers washed with blue; bill and legs black; iris deep red. Total length 9¼ inches, tail 3½. (The upper tail coverts extend nearly and the under coverts right to the tip of tail).

Adult Female: Very similar to ♀ *turcosa*—dull blue, mottled with dusky and brown; slightly smaller than the male. Total length 9 inches, tail 3¼.

THE FAIRY BLUE BIRD (*I. puella*).

Some weeks ago, when I got rough pulls of the charming coloured plate accompanying these notes, I wrote our member, Mr. Hugh Whistler, asking if he could tell me anything about the wild life of the Fairy Blue Bird and he very kindly sent one the following letter:

"I am much obliged to you for your letter and the plate "of *Irena turcosa*. I regret that I can tell you nothing about "*Irena* in a wild state, as it does not occur within 500 miles or so "of my province—the Punjab; however as I have observed that "you do not appear to use 'The Fauna of British India: Birds,' "by Blanford and Oates, I am extracting certain facts from it "in case they may contain a detail or two unknown to you.

"I am only referring to *I. puella*, as *turcosa* does not "occur in India.

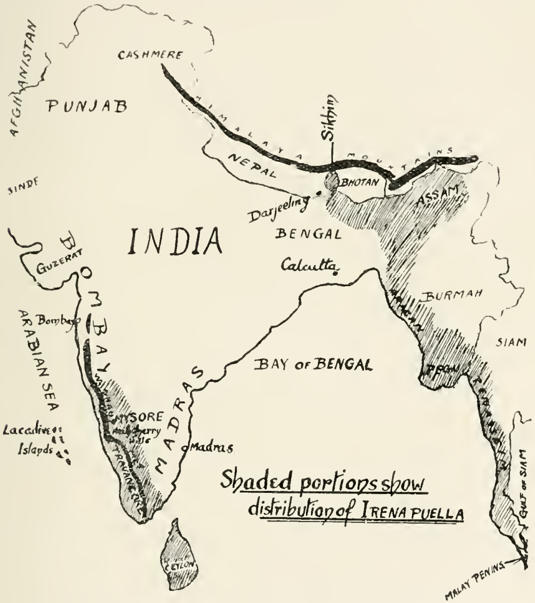
"The distribution of the species I have indicated on the "enclosed rough sketch map. By way of parenthesis I may "note here that so many well-known birds that are regarded as "typically Indian do not occur in the Punjab, which, as far as my "observations extend, tends to be Western Palæarctic rather than "tropical in its avifauna. It is very largely affected by the "extensive migrations which occur over the N.W. corner of the "Himalayas, migrations which may advantageously be studied in "Capt. Whitehead's 'Birds of Kohat and the Kurram Valley,' "'Ibis,' 1909).

"Oates makes the following observations on the plumage "changes of *Irena* and I suggest you ask aviculturists to confirm "them if possible by actual observation of aviary birds.

"The young are like the female. The male changes into "adult plumage about March, and the change takes place with-

"out a moult; the feathers of the upper parts first become "fringed with bright blue; the tail-coverts next become changed; "the lower plumage takes the longest to change, and young birds "may frequently be met with having the lower plumage mixed "black and dull blue, but the upper plumage that of the adult.

"It would be most interesting if any member of the club "who is fortunate enough to induce this beautiful species to "breed could trace the progress of the above changes in his "young birds, keeping a detailed diary of the same.


AFGHANISTAN
CASHMERE
PUNJAB
HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS
Sikkim
NEPAL
BHOTAN
ASSAM
SINDE
Darjeeling
INDIA
BENGAL
Calcutta
GUZERAT
BOMBAY
Bombay
ARABIAN SEA
BURMAH
SIAM
BAY of BENGAL
PEGU
TENASSERIM
MADRAS
Madras
MYSORE
Neilgherry Hills
TRAVANCORE
Laccadive Islands
CEYLON
GULF of SIAM
MALAY PENINS.

Shaded portions show distribution of IRENA PUELLA

"The habits are given as follows:—'This bird is common "in most of the tracts it frequents, going about in small parties "or in pairs. It feeds principally on fruit, and is generally "found on the larger forest trees. It breeds from February to "April, constructing a shallow cup-shaped nest, sometimes of most "and sometimes of small twigs in a sapling or small tree. The "eggs, which are generally two in number are greenish-white, "marked with brown, and measure about 1.14 by .22 inches.'

"The distribution strikes me as curious and I expect "that critical examination of specimens will show that the species "should be divided into two races.—HUGH WHISTLER."

I hope, that, if any of our members obtain this fine species, they will carefully note the plumage on arrival and at each subsequent moult, though, of course, only the successful rearing of the young, or capture of birds in nestling plumage can satisfactorily clear up the points Mr. Whistler refers to. There are, however, more species than is generally acknowledged, which assume, or partially assume, the adult plumage without a moult.

Adult Male: Entire upper plumage, scapulars lesser and median wing-coverts and under tail-coverts glistening ultramarine-blue, with lilacine reflections; wings, tail, sides of the head, and entire undersurface velvety black; the greater wing-coverts tipped and the central tail feathers washed with blue; bill and legs black; iris ruby red. Total length 10 inches, tail 4¼. (The under tail-coverts are short, compared with the other species, and only extend to within 1¼ inches of tip of tail).

Adult Female: Entire plumage, dull brownish blue, with the margins of the feathers brighter blue, lightly washed with cobalt on the rump and upper tail-coverts and the brown hue less distinct on the undersurface.

Habitat: Ceylon; the western coast of India from Travancore up to the latitude of Belgaum and Sawant Wari; Sikhim and the lower ranges of the Himalayas to Dibrugarh in Assam; the Khasi hills; Cachar; Manipur; Arrakan; Pegu, Tenasserim; the Andamans and Nicobars. This species is confined entirely to the evergreen forests of the hills and plains, and it is found up to about 4,000 feet of elevation. It extends some distance down the Malay Peninsular and into Siam.—("Fauna of Brit. India: Birds" O. and B.).

THE TWEEDALE'S FAIRY BLUE BIRD. (*I. tweedalii*).

Adult Male: Crown of head, nape, and entire upper surface, scapulars, lesser and median wing-coverts, and under tail-coverts shining turquoise-blue, the top of the head with a silvery sheen; sides of head; sides of neck, wings (some of the greater coverts) tipped with blue, tail and entire under surface velvety black; bill and legs black; iris carmine. Total length 8 inches, tail 3¾ inches.

Adult Female: Above and below dull Prussian blue, more or less mottled with dusky-brownish; wings and tail dark brown, outer webs washed with blue.

Habitat: Island of Balabac, Philippines." (B.M.C.).

THE MALACCAN FAIRY BLUE BIRD (*I. cyanea*).

Adult Male: Similar to *I. criniger*, but the under tail-coverts do not extend to the tip of the tail—distance between tip of tail-coverts and tip of tail ½ inch; bill and legs black. Total length 9½ inches, tail 3½.

Adult Female: Smaller than the male; similar to the ♀ of *I. puella*.

Habitat: "Malacca." (B.M.C.).

Further than to express the hope that other species of this exquisite genus may speedily be introduced to English aviaries, and to express my appreciation of the help of the British Museum officials, when going through their skins, also to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Museum Catalogue, I need not further lengthen this article; but I venture to hope that collectors abroad will endeavour to send home such species as have not already been seen alive in England. All the species would be more than welcome, as up to the present there has been practically no opportunity of studying these species in captivity.

Stray Notes from Hoddam Castle Aviaries.

By E. J. Brook, F.Z.S.

[I must preface these notes by stating that they form a letter in response to an enquiry. Permission was, however, given to use as we thought fit, and we give them as written, simply adding a heading to the respective paragraphs.—Ed.].

"Marmite" Soup as a Diet for Lories, etc.: Some time since I stated that my Fair Lories (*Charmosynopsis pulchella*) were being fed solely on "Marmite" Soup sweetened. Well! they are still on this food and looking splendid; moreover, they have again nested and for the first time, the egg—they never lay more than one—was fertile and nearly hatched. I think this is a point for "Marmite" for Lories. On this food the birds seem to keep in good condition and do not get too fat. All my other Lories get "Marmite" and Horlick's Malted Milk mixed, but if the Fair Lories will do on "Marmite" pure, it should be an equally good food for the more robust kinds.

A Sudden Death: My Black-cap Lory that has been in captivity some eight or nine years has just died. Is this not very nearly a record for a Lory? [It would be of interest if members would place on record instances of longevity among Lories and Lorikeets.—Ed.]. The bird was in the most perfect condition till a few minutes before it died, and from appearances one would think it had injured its back in displaying.

THE BLUE BIRD OF PARADISE (*Paradisornis rudolphi*): It is now in full plumage for the first time and anything more magnificent it is difficult to imagine; the different shades of blue are so intense. It is rather curious to note how the side plumes, which cover the tail like a fan, appear like dull gold in one position and in another are intense blue. The bird is well worth seeing, and it is a pity it is so far from London.

SUNBIRDS: These are all in good order, and with the exception of two that were out on a cold windy day and got chilled, I have not lost any for over a year.

WHITE-BACKED LORY (*Eos fuscata*): A specimen which came to me as a young bird is going to make a good talker; this is the first talking Lory I have had.

Birds of Gambia.

BY E. HOPKINSON D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 78.

Gallinago gallinago. SNIPE.

Range. Europe and North Asia. Senegambia and North-east Africa, India to Moluccas in winter. (*H.L.*)

Certainly not common in the Gambia, though one not infrequently sees them when shooting in the swamps, and one or two at least are generally obtained every year, usually between December and March, though I am sure that in 1907 I put up (and missed) a true Snipe on the Sallikenni swamp as late as May 5. In the same year (March) in the Upper River I saw one shot by the Commissioner, which I think must have been the melanistic variety known as Sabine's Snipe.

Rostratula capensis. PAINTED SNIPE.

Range. Africa. India, etc., to Japan. South to Malay Peninsula, etc. (*H.L.*)

These lovely birds arrive in the Gambia in large numbers about May or June, and leave again before the end of the rains. As soon as the swamps begin to fill, one may be sure of finding them in the rice fields. Their flight is quite unlike that of the true Snipe, being slow and short, and they prefer to trust to their skulking habits rather than to their wings for safety. Little as the name Snipe suits their general demeanour, the other half of their name is well-merited, for their plumage is indeed beautiful—black and white, variegated with a lovely golden bronze mottling. The female, contrary to the usual rule, is the more brightly coloured bird of the two. They are very fat when they come to us and make most tasty additions to the menu.

Himantopus himantopus. STILT.

Range. Central Europe. Africa. Madagascar. Central Asia. India to Western China. (*H.L*).

These long-shanked black and white birds with red bills and legs are common with us all the year round and may be found wherever shallow fresh-water pools are left, as the swamps dry up. They are quite good eating.

Haematopus capensis. BLACK OYSTER-CATCHER.

Range. Europe; Central Asia. Mediterranean and Red Seas; East Africa to Mozambique; Persian Gulf; Sind in winter. (*H.L*).

H. moquini. MOUQUIN'S OYSTER-CATCHER.

Range. Africa. Canaries. Madeira. (*H.L.*)

I have occasionally seen a black and white Oyster-catcher along the river, which must be *H. ostralegus*, though its range as given in the Hand List would appear not to include the Gambia. The wholly black bird (*capensis*) I have never yet seen here.

CURSORIIDÆ.

Pluvianus aegyptius. BLACK-BACKED COURSER.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to River Coanza; North-east Africa to Mediterranean. (*H.L.*)

Certainly not common with us; I do not think that I have ever come across it in the Gambia. For a most complete and interesting account of this species I would refer those interested to an article (with photo) by Captain Stanley S. Flower, in the Avicultural Magazine for 1908, page 139.

Cursorius temmincki. SENEGAL COURSER.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L*).

These Coursers, buff-coloured birds, with black and white markings on the hind-neck and pale pink legs, occur here locally, usually three to six together, in open country during the dry season, and must breed with us towards the end of that period, as I have a note that at Brufut in June, 1906, there were "numbers of these Coursers round the camp; several shot, some in juvenile mottled plumage, others adult."

Rhinoptilus chalcopterus. VIOLET-WINGED COURSER.

Range. Senegambia to North-east Africa. (*H.L.*).

Rather larger than the preceding; a plain brown bird with metallic purple hues on the black primaries, a white post-ocular streak and throat, a distinct white wing-bar (var. *albofasciatus*), and a white belly surmounted by a black chest-band. I have only handled two specimens. They are certainly rare here.

OEDICNEMIDÆ.

Oedicnemus senegalensis. SENEGAL THICKKNEE.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Gaboon, North East Africa to Egypt. (*H.L*)

This Thickknee, so noticeable with its bull-head and big yellow eye, differs only from its European relative, the "Norfolk Plover" in having one instead of two white wing-bars, and is common throughout the Gambia. They are found singly, in pairs or small parties of about half a dozen, usually on fairly dry ground; they are particularly fond of bush-covered uplands where there is little or no grass and the bush is sparse, but also haunt the edges of the river, especially in its upper parts where the banks are sandy and comparatively high. They are usually easily shot and provide quite a palatable dish. The Mandigo name is Kuling-kuling.

GLAREOLIDÆ.

Glareola pratincola. PRATINCOLA.

Range. South Europe to Central Asia and India, in Africa in winter. (*H.L*)

G. melanoptera. NORDMANN'S PRATINCOLE.

Range. South East Europe, Africa in winter. (*H.L*).

Pratincoles are often seen in immense numbers on the swamps during the dry season, but they are most erratic in their movements, here to-day and gone to-morrow. One year (1907) it really seemed as if they had come after locusts, as *G. melanoptera* does in South Africa, but in other years there has appeared no connection, as they have been very numerous when no locusts have been about.

The diagnostic point between the two species is that in *pratincola* the axillaries are chestnut, in *melanoptera* black. Nearly all our birds are the first named, but I am practically certain that I have seen *melanoptera* here.

Budgett found *G. pratincola* in large flocks at Kwinella in March, while my notes are as follow:—

1902. March. "Very common on the Soma swamp" (Pryce).

1904. January. "A large flock of Pratincoles on the Karawan swamp." (Pryce).

1907. February. Thousands on the marsh at Misera. There have been a good many locusts this year. These birds probably come after them. I do not think I have ever seen them here before.

1907. June 20. Aljamadu. A dozen or more Pratincoles hawking over the swamp; often alighted on the ground and slowly fanned their wings over their backs. Shot one for identification, (= *pratincola*, axillaries rufous).

1909. May 5. Silfor. Hundreds of Pratincoles round the pools on the swamp.

1909. May 6. Not one to-day, where there were hundreds yesterday.

1909. May 9. A few back again in the same place.

1912. April 9. Large numbers of Pratincoles on the Kaiaff swamp.

FINIS.

My Indian Consignment.

By Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

[Major Perreau has kindly consented to write us an account of the birds he procured, trapped and personally brought over last month, providing I would write an introduction; this task is indeed a pleasure, for the condition of the birds on arrival bespoke that ceaseless care and personal attention, *en route,* which only the amateur importer bestows.

On Saturday, March 22nd, Major Perreau landed a consignment of over 200 rare Indian soft-bills. On March 3rd he left Bombay with a total of 250, and actually arrived at Paris with 240, the bulk of which were then in practically exhibition trim; but, at Calais the mishap of the journey occurred, for while he was engaged with the transit officials, two of the large cages were sent down the baggage shute, swamping the unfortunate inmates with milk sop, etc., besides the shock, nevertheless, he actually arrived at Mitcham with 220 birds—all of which were in excellent health, and in robust condition, yet they spent the whole of the voyage on the open deck, in the form of an open square by day, and stacked face to face during the night. With the exception of the Laughing-Thrushes, which arrived very fit and healthy, but very travel worn, most of the birds were in really good feather; such as Niltavas, Nuthatches, Minivets, Babblers, Spider-Hunter, Crow-Tit, etc., being, save for slightly frayed tails, in exhibition plumage. A perusal of Major Perreau's article (a small portion only of which can appear this month) will amply indicate what a notable series of birds has been landed with almost infinitesimal loss of life *en route,* and fully demonstrates how complete a success Major Perreau's undertaking has been. Quite a number of species new to aviculture were included in the collection, and I am pleased to say that the bulk of not only the rarer species, but of the whole series, have passed into the possession of members of the Foreign Bird Club, and I trust that during the present season many of them may reproduce their kind.

In conclusion, I heartily congratulate our member on such a successful termination to his enterprise—an achievement of which any importer may well be proud.—Ed.].

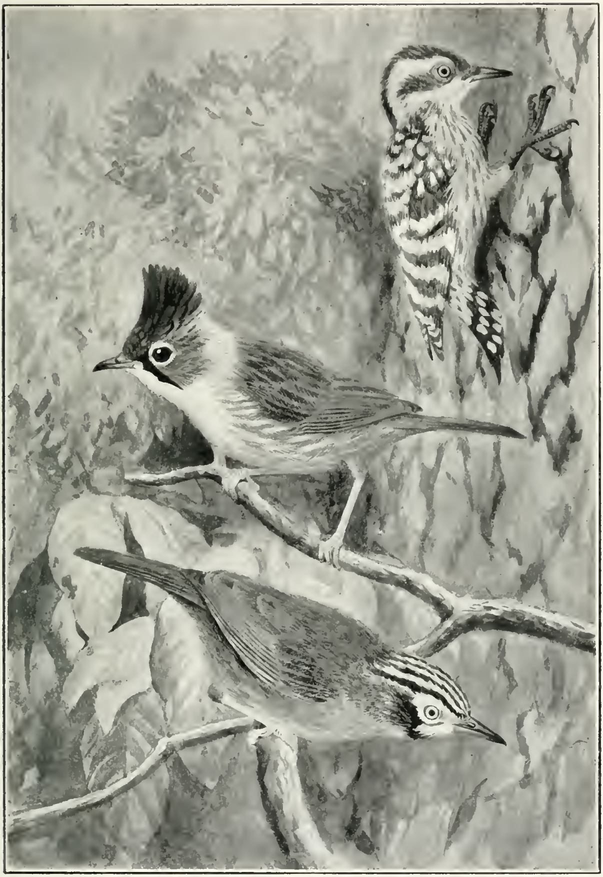
After writing this article, or a large part of it, in the rough, I have been shown our esteemed Editor's most flattering introduction. I think this is a good place in which to thank him not only for this but for the way in which he has given time and trouble to help me in making arrangements for me on arrival in London and in helping with the birds and correspondence, I do not know how I should have got on without his assistance and that of my wife.

I had meant to open with a brief history of my collection, but I find that it is by no means brief, and with our energetic Editor almost literally at my elbow as a reminder that I promised that this should be in at least two days ago, I had better start with the three birds which are figured in this issue. After that the Editor can take as much of the "history" as he thinks our members can stand at one dose. I would have preferred to write when I had more leisure. but needs must when the Editor drives—and is close at hand—and has done so much for one.

Mr. Goodchild has caught the character of each bird in a wonderful way. To my mind the *Ixulus* takes a lot of beating but then so does the Wren-Babbler; the more so, perhaps, as it has no such distinctive feature as has the *Ixulus* in its crest; and then again the Pigmy Woodpecker is what the bird is—a pigmy woodpecker.

1. THE HIMALAYAN PIGMY WOODPECKER (*Iyngipicus pygmaeus*) is a delightful little bird in the cage. I have never seen it wild, so can say nothing about it in that state. Our member, Mr. Appleby, of Lahore, kindly got it for me and gave it me with many others as I passed through. The figure renders description unnecessary as it is not a bird of colour (browns and white). Its minute size (only 5½ inches), tameness, and quaint ways give this bird its charm.

It is very destructive to woodwork, and on the voyage had to be changed from one compartment to another every three or four days. It is very fit and in splendid feather, apparently doing very well on a good strong insect mixture with a few mealworms, of which it is very fond. I gather from Blandford that it is a bird of the foothills from Khatmandu to Mussoorie. The cock has a short narrow stripe of



From life by H. Goodchild.

Top figure, Pigmy Woodpecker: *Middle figure*, Yellow-naped Ixulus: *Bottom figure*, Black-throated Wren-Babbler.

scarlet feathers on each side of the occiput. My bird is a hen.

2. THE YELLOW-NAPED IXULUS. (*Ixulus flavicollis*) is a curious and decidedly pretty little bird of much the same habits in a way as the White-eye, requiring the same food, *i.e.*, sop, fruit, insect mixture, with a few mealworms. I found them not uncommon near Darjeeling, at 4,000, to 6,000 feet, commoner at the latter elevation. I never saw them in parties like White-eyes, but I only saw them just at the end of the breeding season, when they were either in pairs or small parties of four or five. At the end of August I saw a pair feeding barely fledged young. They as a rule frequent fairly high trees and were always on the move inspecting flowers or the crevices among the orchids, not in bloom when I was in Darjeeling.

The figure in the plate requires little description. The collar is chestnut-yellow, upper parts brown and grey, shading off into each other and contrasting strongly with the white of the sides of the face and lower parts, the former with a beautiful silvery sheen. Oates gives the distribution as the Himalayas from the Gutlej to Assam, the Khasi Hills, Manipur, from 5,000 to 8 000 feet. The nest is a deep cup of moss and fibre, suspended from one or two twigs of a branch. Length of bird about 5 inches.

I only got home three, all that I started with from Bakloh; of these one has gone to our member Mr. Townsend and two to Mr. Wesley Page. Of the latter one had a curious and unfortunate accident, hanging itself in a fork of a myrtle bush growing in one of our Editor's excellent greenhouse flights. I remember losing a Plumbeous Redstart in a somewhat similar way some years ago, and can sympathise with him in his loss.

3. THE BLACK-THROATED BABBLER (*Stachyris nigriceps*) is named a Wren-Babbler by Jerdon, probably because of its small size, but it has little of the Wren about it. Certainly it skulks up low undergrowth but quite in a different way, more like a Siva or Liothrix in this respect. It is a smart, vivacious little bird, well able to look after itself, with much larger birds in a mixed aviary. It was evidently

going "down the hill" for the winter, as at about 4,000 feet I found it very rare in early September, whilst at the end of that month it was quite the commonest capture made during my brief stay in Darjeeling. I was letting them go in fair numbers as I had twelve (my limit for one bird, and a limit only reached in one or two cases). I found them not too easy to meat off, but doing well when once the critical stage was past. I gave four away in Calcutta, a gift I rather regretted later, as I lost five chiefly by accident, before starting, and two more in the Pathankot mishap, of which, more later. Food as for the Woodpecker, but maggots are readily accepted, and in the aviary the sponge-cake and milk dish was visited.

The one bird landed is in beautiful condition and has now passed into the hands of our member, Lady Kathleen Pilkington. I refuse to attempt the description of this bird in full detail. Head black, streaked with white, upper parts rich olive brown, lower parts bright fulvous, throat in all specimens I have seen black, mottled with white, a white ring round the eye, ear coverts rufous brown. Oates gives distribution as the Himalayas from Nepal to the East of Assam and from thence south and east to Tenasserim. Found up to 10,000 feet in summer. Length about 5½ inches.

[We hope Major Perreau will give us the history, of the collection, after describing the species, as the incidents of collection, trapping, field notes, etc., also the details of the journey to the coast and the voyage to England will, we are assured, be of general interest.—Ed].

On the Keeping of Soft-Bills in Cages

By Otto Puck.

What lover of birds, when taking a walk through hill and dale in "Ye Merrie Month of May" has not become enamoured with nature's concert of our various songsters, and felt a desire for a closer acquaintance with them, to admire their beauty, and listen to their song within four walls?

I certainly am among the number, and how could I help it, having grown up in one of nature's most lovely spots. My wish to possess every kind of native bird could easily have been satisfied, but a kind mother strongly objected to my keeping birds in cages, as she thought there would be the difficulty to provide them with adequate food, and although I demurred, I do not think she was altogether wrong when denying me this pleasure, considering my tender years. I am afraid that even to-day many a fine bird's life is sacrificed owing to its keeper not supplying it with suitable food. My advice therefore to all beginners is "go slow," study first some good bird literature, become acquainted with the habits and feeding of the bird you are desirous of keeping, make the acquaintance of some bird-lover who keeps the variety you are anxious to cage, and get some prectical hints; these are often more valuable than all theory. Next start your experience with an easily kept soft-bill, and having gained success, then gradually mount the ladder. The essential points to success are cleanliness, wholesome food, and regular attention. Remember you never come across a dirty bird at large; some may develop dirty habits when caged, but they are not naturally inclined to be dirty. Don't blame the bird; the cage may be too small, or you do not give a bath freely enough, or in the case of fruit-eating birds, you do not provide the food in the right kind of vessel. The fault therefore lies with you, and not the bird, and the remedy is in your hands.

Some may consider these small matters too troublesome, but I can assure them they are very important in keeping birds, especially soft-bills, in good health and condition, and no trouble in this respect should be too great, but made a "Labour of Love," to make the life of your pets as comfortable and as near to their natural habits as possible.

Now the first and most important point after you have decided what kind of bird to cage, is to know what food to keep it on. Soft-Bills, as the name implies, are insectivorous, and feed mostly on live insects. It would therefore be out of the question to feed them on seeds, and, again, as human beings, without detriment to their health, could not for a length of time exist on one diet alone, neither can birds; there must be variation, and also variation according to the seasons.

Another point, the food should always be of the best quality and fresh, best is cheapest in the long run. There are excellent preparations of ready-made food in the market which can be made palatable to the birds without much trouble, and I have nothing to say against them, but still prefer to mix my own ingredients, as I can then better vary the mixture according to the particular taste or requirements of each individual bird.

Dried ants' eggs should form the staple food, but there are ants' eggs and ants' eggs (cocoons is more correct). Be sure that they are fresh and have an agreeable smell of formic acid; they should be of a uniform flesh colour, and each cocoon contains an ant in the nymph state. Those that are grey or black are valueless, as the insect is in too advanced a state of developement and the birds will not partake of them.

The next important food is dried flies. There are two kinds imported :—

1. Muska Zeche, from the swamps of Mexico.
2. Whiteworm, or Day fly, from the swamps of the Danube and Elbe.

The former have a strong fishy smell, and small dried up fish are found among them, caught, no doubt, in the meshes of the net when skimming the surface of the water in catching the flies, and of course the fishes should be picked out before using the flies.

There is no such trouble with the Whiteworm, but instead, there are found among them small pieces of charcoal emanating from the embers of fires lit along the banks of the rivers to trap the flies by night.

Other valuable foods are Silkworms (ground) preserved; preserved yolk of egg; cream cheese or dried milk curds (free from sugar); rusks (ground and free from sugar). I do not care for biscuits, as in my opinion they contain matter foreign to and indigestible by cage birds. Sponge cake (ground); hemp seed (ground small); maw seed; carrot (raw and finely grated); and last, but not least, mealworms: but in the use of these my advice is "caution," especially to the novice. Many feet troubles are due to the too frequent supply of mealworms.

The above are the chief foods forming the menu of most caged insectivorous birds, and in addition, but not of least importance, is judicious admixture of fruit, which should always be fully ripe, and, according to the season, the following fruits will be relished by most soft-bills, viz.:—

Cherries, Currants (chopped up), Green Figs, Raspberries, Blackberries, Mountain Ash Berries, Privet Berries, Ripe Pears (sleepy), Apple (baked), Banana, and Elderberries.

Then in spring, as soon as obtainable, and all the summer, while the supply lasts, freshly-gathered ants'-cocoons; also well scoured gentles and wasp-grubs.

These three latter foods are particularly invaluable for "meating off" freshly caught soft-bills in the spring, and for moulting purposes in the autumn.

To the novice this may appear a formidable array of foods and almost deter him from embarking upon the keeping of softbills, but he will soon find in practice that it is not so bad, as all the foods are not given at once, but more or less in rotation.

I have often been asked how I succeed in maintaining the natural glossy appearance in the plumage of cage-moulted birds. Well, every ornithologist knows that all birds have a fat gland, from which they extract oily matter to impart to their feathers by means of their beaks; no doubt softbills obtain a supply of oliferous matter from the various kinds of live insects they feed on when at large, whereas the food substitutes we supply them with, being dried to preserve them, are deprived more or less of same. It, therefore, struck me, that here was something to make up, and for years I have occasionally added to the food a little grated Brazil nut or grated pine kernels, with beneficial results. In fact all my birds relish their food much more when nut is added to same.

There is a great divergence of opinion as to the correct formula for mixing the various foods in right proportion. I have studied this important point for many years, and culled much valuable information not only from our own "Fancy" press, but also from Continental bird literature, and find that the following stock mixture for such birds as Blackcaps, Garden Warblers, Redstarts, Whitethroats, Nightingales, etc.; is hard to beat, viz.:

At night put the daily supply of dried Ant-Cocoons in a basin, add one-third of its bulk of finely grated raw carrot, mix well with a fork, then press down, and let it stand in a cool place over night. During the night the Ants'-eggs will absorb the moisture from the carrot, and all you have to do next morning is to break them up with a fork, add some more dried Ant-Cocoons, if too damp (it is safer to have the food a little on the dry side than too damp) cream cheese or a little milk curd, ground rusk, or preserved yolk of egg, and once or twice a week a little fly scalded first, and then dried between linen.

During cold weather I also add a little ground hemp, and mix the whole again with the hand until it feels crumbly and moist, with no lumps or pieces adhering together.

Some of my birds are also fond of finely ground silkworms, and these may be added occasionally to the food and for larger birds, such as Shamas, sometimes a little crissel and more fly.

Blackcaps and the smaller Warblers look daily for the small supply of egg-food, and this I prepare as follows:

1 part ground rusks; 1 part ground sponge cake; ½ part curds or cream cheese, ½ part preserved yolk of egg. and a little ground Brazil nut, maw seed, moistening the whole with grated carrot. Some I know, give also minced lettuce or dandelion leaves, but I consider that the carrot supplies all the vegetable food necessary for the well-being of even dainty Warblers.

All foods must, of course, be given fresh daily, any food left in the vessels from the previous day must be thrown away. My food waste, however, as everything is of the best quality, amounts to next to nothing, nearly everything is eaten, proving the old adage, that "the test of the cake lies in the eating." However, should there be any food left over by the more tender Warblers, same always comes in for the larger and stronger birds next day.

Having digested this menu, I will now take the novice back to the starting point, assuming he has decided what kind of soft-bill to keep, the next question will be that of a suitable cage, but as my present notes have already run to such length, I am afraid I am transgressing too much upon our

Editor's valuable space, and will therefore deal with this important question in another article.

CAGES.

With regard to cages for Soft-bills, generally speaking these can never be too large. They should allow the birds plenty of room for exercise.

In my opinion a bird keeps in much better health if besides the jumping from perch to perch he has room to make use of his wings, and can indulge in a flight from side to side of the cage, and they do. For this reason an oblong shape is best, and to protect the bird against draughts the box pattern cage is generally adopted. The top of the cage should be made of some soft material to prevent birds from damaging their heads, as when freshly caught, and also during the migratory periods, they are very apt to jump up against the top during the night, and if the top of the cage is made of hard material bad results will follow.

Feeding vessels should always be inside the cage, and had best be made of glass, as such are easily kept clean.

A bath is a *sine-qua-non,* and this should hang outside in front of the cage to prevent the cage from getting wet inside.

The perches should be placed well apart and be of different thicknesses, and of soft wood, either willow, elderberry, or lime and be easily removable for cleaning purposes. Nearly all soft-bills have rather tender feet. I therefore cover the perch they mostly use, and rest on during the night, with rubber tubing, so as to make same more elastic.

The tray should be of good depth and had best be made from zinc, and for *covering* material I prefer leaf mould mixed with moss litter or cocoanut fibre, fine soil from the garden and a little silver sand. There is always some live live food in the leaf-mould or soil, and besides it is soft and therefore better for the birds' feet than sand alone. When mixing this, I put in a few drops of terebene, which not only makes it nice and sweet, but also acts as a sanitary deodoriser.

As all soft-bills are large feeders, great attention as to cleanliness must be paid to the cage bottoms or trays. Once a week they should be thoroughly cleansed and scalded, adding a few drops of Lysol or Condy's Fluid to the water they are washed in, the soil taken away to be re-plenished by fresh, and if this is done at the week-end, then on Wednesdays the droppings accumulated by then should be removed, and a little fresh soil put in.

Food and water vessels should be kept scrupulously clean, and especially the latter washed out every day and re-filled.

It is quite refreshing to see how birds appreciate fresh water, and especially how fond they are of their morning tub. When they do enjoy it, it is a sign of good health, and as a rule you will have little trouble with such birds, their feet are always clean. Once leave them without the fresh water, and you will find they will rather go without than bathe in stale water.

The sizes of my stock cages are:

	Long.		*High.*		*Wide.*
For Blackcaps	18in.	x	12in.	x	9in.
,, Warblers	28in.	x	15in.	x	11in.

,, Nightingales, Thrushes, Shamas—larger in proportion.

But size of cage alone is not everything, the position they occupy in the room has a great deal to do with the well-being of the occupant.

The best place is opposite the window, where the morning sun strikes the cage, and hung at a height that when you stand in front of the cage the bird on the perch is about level with your face.

Fortunately soft-bills are not so subject to Red Mites as hard-bills, but needless to say you must be on the look-out, therefore keep your cages clean, and if you detect the slightest sign, paint ends of perches and corners with a solution of lysol.

I do not think that I have any more to say on the subject of cages, except that some birds, shy in their nature, strongly object to being exposed to full view, and feel more happy if part of the open front is covered with lino or some light material behind which they can hide from the gaze of intruders, even that of their own master.

Some soft-bills are naturally shy; much depends upon

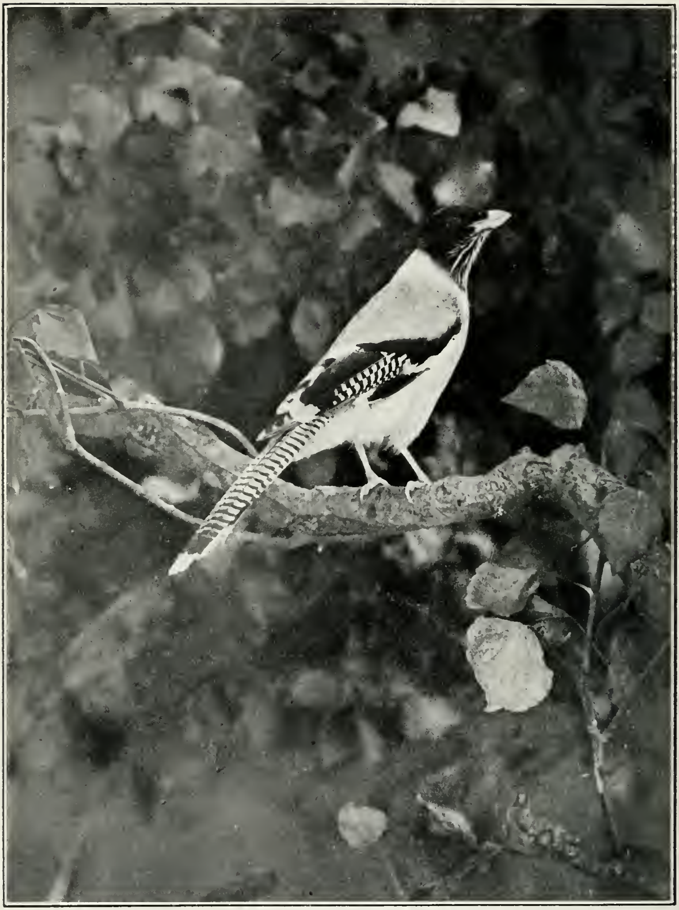


Photo from life by H. Willford.

The Black-throated or Lanceolated Jay.

under what surroundings they grew up, and although they settle down to cage life, and are tame in a way, yet they never lose their shyness and become really confidential. On approaching their cage, they will not fly mildly about, but try to hide in a corner, and no coaxing in the world will fetch them out of it; leave the room, and they are immediately on the perch. Others are as "bold as brass," as the saying has it, and woe betide you if you spoiled them by giving them a tit-bit in the shape of a worm too often, you never hear the end of it. As regards the shy birds, I have a case in point at the present moment.

Three years ago I acquired a Nightingale, first year very shy, no song; second year, little more confidential, would snap a worm from finger and sang for one month—this year I thought I would alter the position of his cage, so put same in a darker corner of the room, and decorated the front of cage with artificial evergreens, result: incessant song, almost too loud for room, from early morning, and even at night by light, since October 30th. The best bird I ever had as regards song, and all brought about through a little forethought and no doubt by accidentally bringing the position of the cage and surroundings into a line with the natural conditions under which the bird lived when at large.

As with human beings, so with birds, There are hardly two natures alike in their habits, these you must study, and experience gained with patience must be your teacher.

Success depends upon good management, and as there is a great deal to be said under this heading, I will devote another article to General Management, before giving my experiences, and a treatise on the various kinds of Softbills I have kept in cages.

(*To be continued*).

Some Interesting Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Illustrated from Life by H. Willford.

(*Continued from page* 36).

The Lanceolated Jay (*Garrulus lanceolatus*): The range of Jays is world-wide, and their plumage is as diversified as their range—ranging from sombre, yet beautiful, arrangements of black, brown, and white, to the gorgeous colouration of the tropics; but it is not with the latter that this short account deals, but with the Black-throated or Lanceolated Jay of the Himalayas. A glance at Mr. Willford's beautiful photo of this striking and handsome species, indicates fully its bold, fearless, and also mischievous demeanour; its plumage is as beautiful as the arrangement of it is striking in its contrasts, as the following description will show:

Description: The upper and lower plumage is principally vinous-grey, much brighter on the rump and upper tail-coverts; the forehead, crown, nape, crest, and sides of head rich velvety black; chin, throat and fore-neck black with white shaft streaks; upper breast grey; tail, blue, barred and banded with black and tipped with white; primaries and secondaries tipped with white, tertiaries grey, banded with black and tipped with white; median and greater wing-coverts black; primary-coverts white; bastard wing (winglet) blue barred with white; bill pinkish, slaty at base and yellowish at tip; legs and feet slaty-pink; iris red. Total length 13 inches, tail 6½ inches.

Major Perreau, in his "Birds of the Station" (Bakloh, Punjab), writes as follows: "The Black-throated Jay, sometimes advertised at home as the "Lanceolated Jay*, "is very common about the station in winter, going but "a short way outside to breed. They are cheery noisy chaps, "and make excellent pets. They do not seem to descend to "the foot of the hills, and I have seen them pretty high up "in the winter. The nest is often quite low down. They "go about in small parties, and are noisy, except in the breed-"ing season, when they go in pairs and are very quiet unless "disturbed by intruders."

Oates in the "Fauna of British India," gives the habits, etc., as follows:

"Breeds from April to June, constructing a shallow "nest of twigs and sticks and lined with grass. The nest "is built in medium-sized trees in a fork or close to the trunk "up to 30 feet in height. The eggs, three or four in number, "vary in colour from stone-colour to greenish-white and are "marked with sepia brown; they measure 1.12 by .85."

Distribution: The Himalayas from Hazára to Nepal

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* Commonly known by this name in England.—Ed.

and over nearly the whole of Kashmir. The species appears to be partially migratory, being found in winter as low as Dehra. In summer it ascends to 8,000 feet (Oates).

In Captivity: For a large cage this is a grand bird, as, once tame, it is never dull, but cheery, vivacious, fearless and confiding, and has a great faculty for mischief—it makes a charming pet.

It is equally interesting in a roomy aviary, with other inmates of similar size and strength. In such quarters the beautiful wing and tail plumage are displayed to great advantage, and its forceful, independent character is very apparent. A friend once said to me "if bird lovers only knew how interesting and quaint Jays are, they would be more frequently kept, both as cage pets and in the aviary"—and with this statement I certainly agree. They are very fond of bathing, and also very knowing and mischievous.

As regards food they are practically omnivorous and nothing comes amiss to them—a coarse insectivorous mixture, table leavings, such as vegetables, scraps of meat, rice pudding, etc., fruit, nuts; but while variety will be easy, animal food must be supplied liberally—the best form in which to supply this is, all kinds of insects, scarcely any come amiss, but we can name, cockroaches, beetles, caterpillars, mealworms, grasshoppers, small reptiles, and mammals, etc.; failing a good supply of live insects, a little finely minced raw meat may be given occasionally (I have never supplied this), and minced cooked meat and grated cooked liver stirred into insectile mixture.

All the Jays, are beautiful and striking, whether their hues are sombre or of gorgeous tropical colouration, and certainly not the least striking or beautiful of them all is the subject of this brief sketch.

THE COMMON REDSTART.

(*Ruticilla phoenicurus, Linn.*)

The Common Redstart is one of our most interesting visitors and always attracts the attention, whenever he is caught sight of, on the top of some low wall, stump, or large stone, standing erect and flicking his perpetual-motion-tail. Usually they are with us from April to September, inclusive, though there are earlier and later records.

Mr Willford's fine photo of the male, illustrating these notes, is a characteristic portrait of this charming bird, in one of its most striking poses.

Description. *Adult Male*: Forehead hoary-white; crown, nape, and upper back slate-grey; wings dark brown, with lighter outer margins; rump and tail ruddy-chestnut, with the exception of the two central feathers of the latter, which are brown; narrow frontal band, chin, throat, and cheeks deep velvety black; breast bright ruddy chestnut; abdomen paler than breast; ventral region whitish; bill black; legs and feet deep brown. Total length 5½ inches.

Adult Female: Lighter and generally less brilliant than male, she lacks the black on the face and throat, which is so striking a feature of her mate.

Young: Nestlings are much spotted above and below and much resemble young Robins, but they have a chestnut tail. Birds of the year resemble the adult female.

R*ange*: Broadly, it is generally distributed throughout the British Isles, though it is less common in the north and west. Its summer and winter distribution outside the Brit. Isles, includes: Europe, Africa, Madeira, Canaries; Arabia; Persia. Eastwards it extends to Lake Baikal.

Breeding: The Common Redstart has not yet been bred in captivity, but in 1912, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker successfully bred the Black Redstart (*R. titys*) in his Devonshire aviaries. In a state of nature the Redstart almost invariably builds his nest in the hole of a tree, crevice of a stone wall, or other similar site. It is mostly constructed of dried grass, fine rootlets, occasionally a few leaves are used, and is lined with hair or feathers or a combination of both. The eggs are bright bluish-green—similar to, but paler and a little smaller than those of the Hedge Accentor—without any markings of any kind. The nesting season is from May to July, inclusive.

Food: In a state of nature this consists of insects—flies, gnats, butterflies, spiders, etc.; and their larvæ and pupæ. In captivity a similar diet must be given, also some strong insectile mixture, also soft ripe fruit.

In Captivity: I have not kept the English species, but I have found them altogether charming birds, and full of interest when watching their deportment in Mr. Willford's aviaries, and numerous as the species are which he keeps, none were more attractive or of greater interest than the subject of these notes, viz., the Common Redstart. I have kept the Plumbeous Redstart, a native of the Himalayas, and during the period (several years) this species was an occupant of my aviaries, all visitors were attracted to it at once, its deportment is exactly similar to that of the Common Redstart, and he throve on insectile mixture, the insects he captured in a roomy aviary, supplemented with mealworms, spiders, etc.; he also was fond of a little fruit; he also regularly visited the milk-sop provided for Tanagers, etc., confined in the same aviary. They are well called "flicktails," for their caudal appendages are a fair example of perpetual motion, with their up and down, and criss-cross movements; never still save for some brief moment to snap up some passing fly or other insect—They have many of the characteristics which makes the Robin so dear to English hearts, the luminous eye, fearless demeanour, etc.; short of allowing one to pick them up, the individuals I have made the acquaintance of, were perfectly fearless, and confiding, taking an insect from the fingers, or hopping about one's feet, looking askance at the live bait tin—thus one could ramble on, but space forbids, and now one species has been bred, why not others? Thus the group of birds called Redstarts present a wide field for aspiring aviculturists.

(*To be continued*).

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: From many sources come records of young birds out of the nest of such species as: Zebra Finches; Long-tailed Grassfinches; Cuba Finches; Diamond Finches; Cutthroats; Bicheno Finches; Budgerigars; Black-cheeked and Madagascar Lovebirds; and Alexandrine Parrakeets; Grey Cardinals; Rusty-cheeked Babblers; and others are busy building or incubating, and there are many signs that the season will be an early, and we also hope a successful one.

ZOO NOTES: Among the more recent additions to the London Zoological Gardens, are many interesting birds, of which the more notable are: Guatemalan Ouzel (*Merula infuscata*)*; Cuban Black Bullfinches (*Melopyrrha nigra*); White-eyebrowed Finches (*Spermophila superciliaris*)*; Lesser Scaup (*Fuligula affinis*)*; Ringed Duck (*F. collaris*)*; Mikado Pheasant (*Calophasis mikado*)*; Cinnamon Tinamou (*Crypturus cinnamomeus*)*; and Mantell's Kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*). Quite recently our member, Major Perreau, has presented the following species: Two pairs Black-throated Ouzels (*Merula atrigularis*); one Dark Grey Bush-Chat (*Orcicola ferrea*)*; one ♀ Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*)*; two White-tailed Blue Robins (*Notodela leucura*)*; one Red-flanked Bush-Robin (*Ianthia rufilata*); Large Niltava (*Niltava grandis*)*; two Short-billed Minivets (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*); one Cinnamon-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta cinnamomeiventris*); one Larger Red-headed Crow-Tit (*Schaeorhyncus ruficeps*)*; one Large Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*); one White-throated Laughing Thrush (*Garrulus albigularis*); one Grey-sided Laughing Thrush (*Dryonastes caerulatus*)*; four Rufous-necked Laughing Thrushes (*D. ruficollis*)*; two Silver-eared Mesias (*Mesia argentauris*); one Cinnamon Tree Sparrow (*Passer cinnamomeus*); one Warbler (*sp. inc*); one Great-billed Desert Finch (*Erythrospiza crassirostris*); one Glossy Calornis (*Lamprocorax chalybea*); two Rain Quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*); one Jungle Bush Quail (*Perdicula asiatica*); two Rock Bush-Quail (*P. argoondah*); one Indian Button Quail (*Turnix tanki*), and one Little Button Quail (*T. dussumieri*).

*New to the collection.

AN AVIAN CATASTROPHE: We regret to learn as we go to press, that our member, the Hon. Mary C. Hawke, lost the whole of her birds and aviaries by fire on Saturday night, 5th inst. Details will be given in our next issue. All we are assured deeply sympathise with her in the loss of so many rare feathered favourites under such distressing circumstances.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that members from all round the coast will note the movement of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—*on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.*—Ed.

March: I heard and saw the Chiff-Chaff on March 21st; the Wryneck on March 29th; the latter species I did not hear till April 2nd last year.

P.F.M.G., Reading, 31/3/'13.

March 1st. Brent Geese in large flocks feeding on the shore.

March 3rd. Wrens have built a nest in an old coffee tin, placed in the twigs of an elm tree in the garden.

A Grey Wagtail (*R. boarula*) reported in the neighbourhood.

March 18th. Greater Spotted Woodpecker heard "drumming" for the first time this season.

March 19th. Saw the first Chiff-Chaff to-day; feeding in some bushes.

March 27th. Heard and saw three Chiff-Chaffs.

March 28th. Watched a Hoopoe feeding on a lawn "not 100 miles away." It arrived five days ago, and seems very tame.

March 31st. Every other bush appears to contain a nest and eggs now: Thrushes and Blackbirds.

P. G., Beaulieu, Hants, 1/4/'13.

My tame garden Robin has to-day begun to carry mealworms to his mate and feed her with them. He pursues me everywhere and flies on to my hand for the worms, but he will not allow his mate to follow his example, though she is desirous of doing so.

A Blue Tit comes to hand for pine nuts during the winter, but leaves me in summer. This is the third year he has re-appeared. E. F. C., 14/3/'13.

You have mis-quoted me re Chiff-Chaff in B.B. Calendar. The bird died before it came into my hands. I received it in the flesh, but not living.

A.S., 23/3/'13.

March. Since 16th ult, vast numbers of Perchers and of Waterfowl have deserted this wind-swept promontory. If birds are arriving from the Continent, they do not remain. I have seen only a small party of Lapwing (8th).

D. L. Salcombe, 29/3/'13.

March. As to the movements of birds in south Oxon, I have noticed just this last fortnight, an unusual number of separate flocks of Redwings within a 5 mile ride on my bicycle. I passed four large flocks; the last flock I came upon in a meadow beside a wood and there must have been several hundreds of them, the field was covered, and there were in addition to these scores flying out of the trees.

These birds have been collecting together, and have been singing in chorus for some time past. Generally this takes place towards the end of March, prior to their leaving for their northern breeding quarters, but they are much earlier in flocks this year, and considering what a mild winter it has been it is strange to find such a number of them. Hawfinches are in good numbers here, and are in song. I have only noticed them this last ten days. Peewits are in pairs on the hills, the flocks have broken up, and they have left the low lands and are rising and tumbling in the air, uttering their peculiar spring notes, intended for the benefit of their mates; this is always one of the first signs of spring.

On March 11th, at 4 o'clock in the morning, I heard strange notes of birds, which seemed to be circling round and round over my house. Although I was on my perch, I was wide awake, the birds kept up the peculiar notes unfamiliar to me, for about twenty minutes, and then as they moved off, they grew fainter. The call was of three notes, which sounded exactly like someone whistling for a dog in a rather low pitched tone. P. F. M. G., Caversham, 12/3/'13.

Wheatear. The only Spring migrant I have seen was a Wheatear, on March 30th. I have heard the passing of many Waders on fine nights during the latter portion of March; a few days however, should herald the arrival of our visitors. R. S. Cleethorpes, 3/4/'13.

* * *

Book Notices and Reviews.

A System of Veterinary Medicine. By various writers; edited, by E. Wallace Hoare, F.R.C.V.S. In two vols., £2 2s., net. Vol I. now ready, price £1 1s., net. London: Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

A copy of Vol. I. has now reached us, and in continuation of our previous notice we would add:

That the sections dealing with birds are mostly from the pen of our Hon. Vet. Surgeon (Mr. H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.), but every section of the animal world is dealt with, and the work should appeal not only to professional men, but to all stock-owners, poultry-keepers, and owners of zoological series of all kinds. The bird section will appeal mainly to our readers. The articles referring to the coccidiosis of birds, the aspergillosis of birds, avian cholera, avian plague, bird-fever, bird septicaemia, and psittacosis, from the pen of Mr. H. Gray, should prove of great value to the students of aviary diseases, and greatly assist the aviculturist in the care of the occupants of his aviaries and cages.

Mr. G. L. Ingram, M.R.C.V.S., of the "Brown" Institution, London, has devoted a chapter to avian tuberculosis, and points out the special characters of this disease in birds.

The writer of the articles on avian diphtheria (roup of poultry-farmers) and epithelioma contagiosum (pigeon or fowl-pox) has described them as two distinct diseases. But modern investigators have concluded they are due to the same virus, which will produce one or the other, that is to say, some birds, after inoculation, will manifest diphtheritic symptoms, others eruptive symptoms or both sets of symptoms combined. They are due to an ultra visible organism, which cannot be seen by the most powerful microscope. Catarrhal roup, which is probably a mild form of avian diphtheria, is also ably described by Mr. Gray. The pigeon or fowl-pox is one of the oldest known diseases of birds. It was noticed by Palladius, A.D., 300; Demetrius described it A.D. 1261, and De Cresentis A.D., 1233—1307, and occurs in every part of the world; but although frequent in the United Kingdom, is particularly common in India, Italy, and other warm countries. We believe the Italian veterinary surgeons pay the greatest attention to the diseases of poultry; the Germans next, then Russians, French, Americans, Roumanians, etc., and the English the least.

Several diseases of rabbits and fishes are fully described, and also the bee plague, the silkworm disease, and two diseases of mice, having an economic value. One mouse disease is allied to or identical with that of swine erysipelas, the other supplies the baccilus for the manufacture of Danysz Mouse and Rat virus. Psittacosis (Parrot disease or plague) is described in its relation to public health, as well as from a veterinary point of view.

The diseases are described from a scientific as well as a practical point of view, and the work is a fair resumé of the present knowledge of them. All the diseases included in it have been investigated by the greatest authorities in medical science. The work should appeal to all those requiring the most authoritative knowledge on any of the microbial or contagious diseases of the economic animals.

Mr. Gray draws attention to the lack of knowledge of the diseases dealt with by the main body of those who advise re the treatment of poultry, pigeons, etc., in the public Press; even our Board of Agriculture takes very little interest in the welfare of the poultry-farmer, who in foreign countries is well catered for by his respective Government, which investigates the diseases of poultry, especially the more deadly diseases, and advises as to their treatment.

In a future issue, with the permission of the publishers, we may qoute from its pages.

The thoughtful aviculturist (this applies equally to every section of animal life) will gain much practical instruction from a careful study of the articles on the diseases of birds, and the result will be a lessening of the death-rate and the saving of needless suffering to many captive birds.

We cordially commend this work to our readers, and, while mainly written for veterinary surgeons, it should appeal strongly to medical men, aviculturists, pisciculturists, dog and poultry breeders, country gentlemen, and the owners of cattle, sheep, and horses. This volume deals with the microbial or contagious diseases.

Correspondence.

ALEXANDRINE PARRAKEETS AND RUSTY-CHEEKED BABBLERS.

Sir,—It may interest you to know that my Alexandrine Parrakeets (*Palaeornis nepalensis*) have hatched out three young ones. The hen with much labour excavated a hole in the ground, right in the open part of the aviary, and I had to put a cover over her, or she would have been drowned in the heavy rains we have had here lately. She is feeding them well and I have great hopes of rearing them..

Have they been bred here previously?—[Yes, several times, but not frequently.—Ed.].

My Rusty-cheek Babblers are also sitting steadily, and I have not seen the hen off the nest yet, since incubation began. If they hatch and rear will let you have particulars.—[Details in any case will be of interest, but we wish you full success.—Ed.].

Westbury, Wilts, WM. SHORE BAILEY.
April 2, 1913.

NO PINK BIRDS.

Sir,—With regard to Mrs. Hartley's remarks on the rarity of pink birds, is not the Rosy Pastor *in India* pink in parts? What about the Desert Trumpeter Bullfinch? I have heard of a beautiful pink-breasted Robin or Chat which inhabits New Zealand and is unknown to aviculture. These are all that occur to me, and certainly they are not a great number.

(Miss) ETHEL F. CHAWNER.

Sir,—Re Pink Birds, do not the following species come under this designation? Salmon-crested and Leadbeater's Cockatoos; Rosy-faced Lovebird; Rosy Pastor; Roseate Spoonbill and Tern; Flamingo, Pine Grosbeak; Linnet; Mealy and Lesser Redpolls.

J. WEIR.

Post Mortem Reports.

See Rules on page iii. of cover.

RED-RUMP PARRAKEET (♂). (B. Hamilton Scott, Ipswich). The lungs were extensively inflamed. I should say the bird was four or five years of age.

PEKIN ROBIN (♀). (Mrs. N. Storey, Cheshire). The cause of death was pneumo-enteritis.

CRIMSON FINCH. (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia.

HAYES PARTRIDGE (♂). (W. A. Bainbridge, Surrey). The cause of death was pericarditis, no doubt due to rheumatism, which you noticed during the bird's life-time. Thanks for your kindly expression but am afraid I shall not be able to attend.

CUTTHROAT. (Philip Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.) Death due to the so-called egg-binding. The Zebra-finch's trouble was pneumonia. The changeable and chilly weather is very trying.

YELLOW BUDGERIGAR (F. W. Bull, Sutton, Surrey). Was too fat. The liver was extensively infiltrated with fat. The other bird died from pneumonia.

YELLOW HANGNEST. (Wm. Shore Baily, Westbury). The cause of death was enteritis. The paralysis of the legs is frequently associated with several bird diseases.

BLACK-HEADED SUGARBIRD ♀. (Miss E. F. Chawner, Lyndhurst). The cause of death was pneumonia.

GREY WAXBILL. (A. S. Eccles, Ditton Hill, Surrey). Cause of death pneumonia.

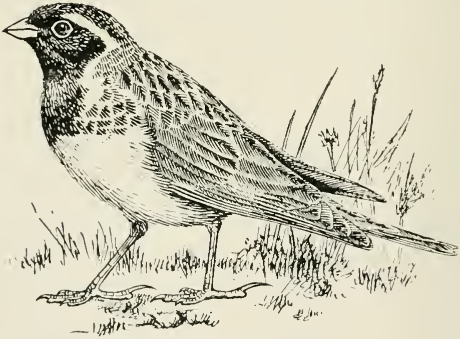
Mrs Cartwright. The *Post Mortem* Rules were not observed.

Answered by Post—Colonel Routh, Mrs. C. H. Williams, Lady Kathleen Pilkington.

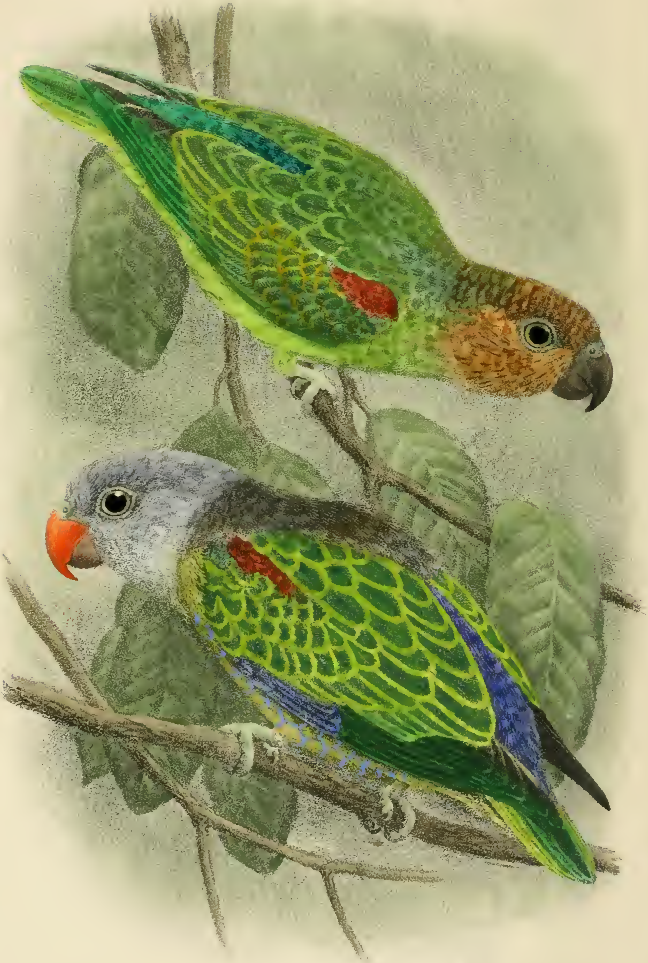
H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S

The Current Number of "Bird Notes."

The sympathy of all our members will, I am sure, go out to our esteemed Editor, who has just suffered a sad and very sudden bereavement. He has asked me to see to the revision of the proof-sheets of this number of our magazine, which I have done to the best of my ability. Doubtless my fellow-members will kindly pardon any imperfections they may detect.—G. H. Raynor, April 9th, 1913.



The Lapland Bunting.



H. Goodchild, del. et lith.

Huth, imp.

BLUE-RUMPED PARROT. ♂ ♀
(Psittinus incertus)

Drawn from life.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Blue-rumped Parrot

(*Psittinus incertus*).

BY L. W. HAWKINS.

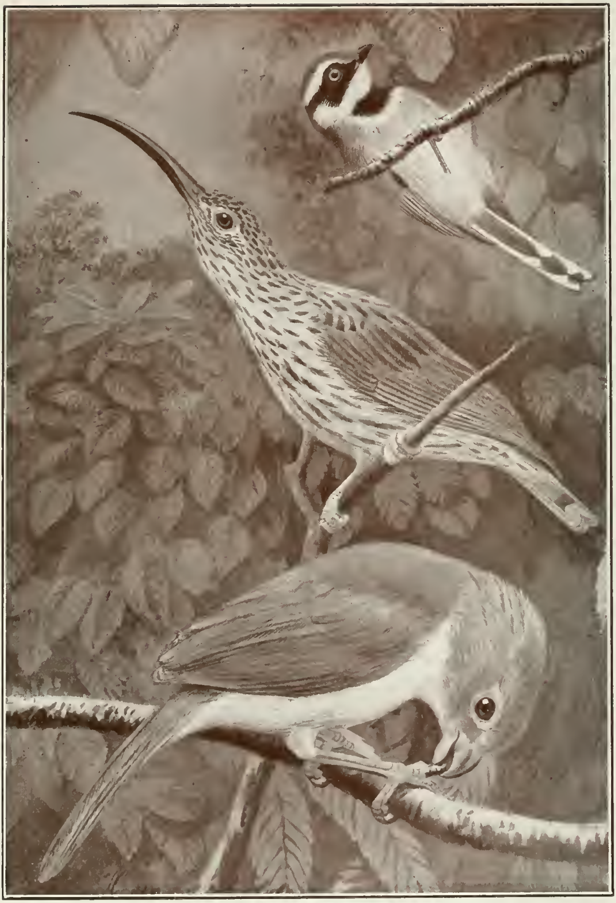
My first acquaintance with this species was in March, 1904, when a London dealer advertised a male for sale. On referring to my books I found the Parrot mentioned in Mr. Seth-Smith's "Parrakeets," and also in the well known German book by Dr. Karl Russ. From these I gathered that it was quite a dwarf Parrot, of beautiful appearance, and very rarely to be seen in Europe, its native land being the region of the Malay Peninsula. I asked to see the bird and it was sent on to me. It proved to be in faultless condition and in full colour, but reminded me very much of the Eclectus Parrots by its lack of activity in a cage. I noticed also that the colour of the beak (the upper mandible, being red and the lower one black), and likewise the great patches of red under the wings were quite similar to the same parts of the male Grand Eclectus. I was not surprised therefore to find that Dr. Karl Russ placed the bird as a near relative of the Eclectus Parrots, though only a little larger than a Lovebird.

I wrote to say I would keep the little Parrot, and received a letter from the dealer saying that I had the only living male in Europe. A female had arrived a few weeks previously and was then on deposit at the Zoo. It was only by a chance that the male had not also found its way there. I was delighted with the bird, and quite expected it would live with me for years as it was apparently quite healthy and fairly tame. It would allow me to take it in my hand and place it on a finger. But although it made no attempt to bite, it would jump off as soon as released. I could not, however, get it to eat any other seeds than hemp. It would take a large quantity of this, and the effect of it was most likely injurious, for in a few weeks the little Parrot was ill, and soon afterwards it died. I went to the Zoo to see if the female still survived, but, failing to find it there, I concluded that it also had died.

I much regretted the loss of this bird and for a long time kept a close watch on Parrot arrivals, both here and on the Continent, in the hope of obtaining another example. In 1910 a dealer in the north of England wrote to say he had a dwarf Parrot and described its size and colours. I took this bird to be an adult hen Blue-rump, but as he fixed the price at ten pounds I had to leave it. I had no trace of further arrivals till December, 1911, when I obtained my present pair. Four young birds were then imported by Mr. Hamlyn, who wrote to say he had two pairs of Pigmy Parrots. On seeing the birds I recognised the Blue-rumped Parrots at once, although they were all out of colour. They were chiefly a mixture of grey and sage green, and the beaks were horn colour, but the blue on the back, the red patches under the wings, and the bordered wing feathers were there. All four were in perfect health and plumage, and two of them had decidedly broader heads than the other two, which seemed to indicate that they were males, and this supposition turned out to be correct. I had doubts at first, however, because one of these males had on its neck some tiny patches of red-brown which is seen in the adult hen, and the other male had a few specks of the same colour on its head. I retained one pair, and the other pair was promptly secured for the Zoo.

I put my pair in a cage in a warm aviary and was glad to see that they partook freely of all the usual seeds such as canary, millet, paddy rice, wheat, oats, hemp and monkey nuts. They would also eat dried figs and prunes, and later on would eagerly take such ripe fruit as plums, pears, cherries, and bananas. I was rather surprised at this as the Blue-rumped Parrots mentioned by Dr. Russ took "chiefly hemp, of canary seed, millet, and cooked rice only a few grains, while fruit they never touched."

In May, 1912, my hen moulted into adult plumage, but the male did not do so till July. This year they have again moulted and they seem to have grown considerably in



From life by H. Goodchild.

Top figure—Red-headed Tit.
Middle figure—Larger Streaked Spider-Hunter.
Bottom figure—Larger Red-headed Crow-Tit.

size. At times they are lively enough, but they generally remain motionless and hump-backed. They have quite a pleasant warble and occasionally give a loud call note. When a stranger enters the aviary the male will sometimes suspend himself by the beak only on the side of the cage and draw up his legs. He then looks a curious object and I think this attitude is a sign of fear. I have not seen them bathe but the water is made quite dirty on account of their habit of carrying fruit stones, nutshells, etc., to the water tray and drooping them in. The only times when they have appeared out of sorts were on the two occasions when they returned home after being exhibited. They then remained somewhat thick for a few days but happily quite recovered.

I recently saw the other pair at the Zoo and was glad to find them in such perfect condition. The success of these four birds shows that they can live well in captivity, but it must be remembered that they were imported quite young. The record of Blue-rumped Parrots imported in adult plumage does not appear so satisfactory. The birds I have mentioned which arrived in 1904 did not live long, and our Editor speaks of a pair (*B.N.* iii., p. 53), which arrived in 1910 and soon died. Moreover I heard that others were privately sent over last year, but owing to the difficulty of getting them to eat the importation was not a success. I find in Mr Seth-Smith's book that the Blue-rumped Parrot "feeds chiefly on the small gummy flowers of a plant that always springs up where forest has been felled and burnt." I am afraid that sometimes a substitute for these small gummy flowers is necessary for recently imported adults of this species to thrive.

[The studies of Mr. Goodchild's beautiful drawing were made from Mr. Hawkins' birds at the C.P. Show].

My Indian Consignment,

By Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 108).

The Red-headed Tit (*Aegithaliscus erythrocephalus*) is a charming wee mite, very much of the type of our Long-tailed Tit, but smaller, and with a shorter tail. The figure requires little description, and the attitude is very characteristic. Roughly described the top of the head is ruddy chestnut, the light parts about the face are white and the dark parts black, the upper parts are bluish grey and the lower parts are reddish-white. Size a little over four inches, of which the tail takes two. The nest is much like that of our Long-tailed Tit.

They form a large proportion of the hunting parties that to my mind form the chief attraction of the deodar forest. It is largely distributed, ranging throughout the Himalayas and common at any rate in the parts I know. When trapping near Darjeeling, where I got most of my best birds, I found it very hard to meat off: the season of the year may account for this, but above Bakloh I had little difficulty after the first day, but little and often is decidedly their motto as regards live food. They took readily to very ripe wild medlar (really, I believe, a small round wild pear) and mealworms broken into three or four pieces and stuck about the crossbars of the wood-fronted cages I meated them off in. From this to sponge cake and milk and then on to insect food was only a matter of a few days, but I never dropped the cut up mealworms or sponge cake. By the way, talking of sponge cake, except perhaps for Sunbirds and such like I do not believe in giving "sop" too wet, nor do I break up the sponge cake. I simply break off a chunk large enough to fill the dish almost, then I pour on the milk (or Mellin's mixture) over the sponge cake to do little more than cover the bottom. Some birds require more, but I always let the cake stand up out of the milk. To some birds, especially Hanging Parrakeets, I often give a dry bit as well, and find it much appreciated.

They ought to stand cold remarkably well as, above Bakloh, I have never seen them below about 6,000 feet, even in the hardest winter when their relative the Crested Black Tit, a much stouter and hardier bird to look at, is easily driven down by snow. I only saved two of my Darjeeling birds out of more than I care to think, but these birds were limed and brought to me even after I had given up trying them and had ordered no more to be caught. I detest the use of lime, but more of that later. I caught ten on a four days' trip near Dalhousie, and two of these days were practically spoilt by heavy hail and wind storms, which almost made me regret camping out in a bivouac tent above Bakloh in February. The birds, my pensioner bird orderly and my servant were quite comfortable in a cowhouse very dirty, it is true. By night and on fine days I was all right, but by day in bad weather it was trying, and the thought of time being wasted did not help to make one take things philosopically. I had my two Darjeeling Tits as call birds in two of my own pattern trap cages. I spent most of my time, wandering about with a cage in either hand searching for a party. On hearing or seeing the advanced guard, usually Tree-creepers and Crested Tits, I hurriedly put down the traps and took the nearest cover, generally within twenty yards. I always got one bird at once, but very seldom more than one, though the party would stream by, a thin stream after the first rush, for seven or eight minutes, ample time to get more if all behaved like the first comers. But apparently it is a good thing to be in front, and stragglers were too much engrossed in getting there to pay any attention to my strangers. It is surprisingly hard to pick up a party again, and then one seems to hit the stragglers.

I lost a few by accident, but had eight beauties practically in show condition on departure from Paris. At Calais there was the shute accident and at Charing Cross, the first chance I had of really seeing the birds after Calais, I used the language of a life-time. Other birds, notably White-eyes, Hanging Parrakeets, and Fruitsuckers, were bad enough, but the Tits—three were dead, stuck to the floor with condensed milk, two were dying, and the other three looked the most forlorn creatures one could wish not to see. These three, however, pulled round in a marvellous way and soon became quite their lively selves, but alas—at the expense of their plumage. They are now in the possession of our member, the Marquis of Tavistock. I had just the same luck (or want of it) with my White-eyes, for only three survived out of eight with a similar loss of feathers; they too were in show condition. These three are now in the possession of our Editor, and are doing very well. Imagine bathing in condensed milk! How I hated the stuff on my hands even, but cleaning had to be done, and water was too plentiful on the voyage. Think of it on your hair.

THE LARGER STREAKED SPIDER-HUNTER (*Arachnothera magna*) is admirably figured by Mr. Goodchild. I think it is the best portrait of the six which he has done of my birds. This, in my opinion, of course, is as it should be, for this bird was a great favourite of mine, quite the first. I was a little disappointed at the comparatively little enthusiasm he evoked from visitors in England, but I am very glad to say that he gets the appreciation he deserves from his present owner, our member Lady Kathleen Pilkington. Of course he is single, and not brightly coloured, but he is distinctly handsome and very quaint.

He was caught in Darjeeling, one of my earliest captures there. I only saw three, and this one was the only one I caught; heavy "bakshish" was offered for others, but without result. I rather expected disappointment with him and provided him with every luxury, I could think of in the food line, putting him in a special cage with mosquito netting front and window, so that I could supply "net-sweepings" and insects all alive-oh. A very good cage, but quite wasted on him. He settled down at once to sponge cake and milk, with an occasional taste from the insect food, and soon got to like a suck at a decapitated mealworm. Spiders, at any rate outdoor "web" ones, he ignored, and I never saw him tackle much from amongst the varied collection supplied from the "net-sweepings." I soon gave up worrying about him, and he's not been sick or sorry a day since. I might except that that awful tonga (light cart) drive from Bakloh to the rail, and even then he was less worried than most birds as he circumvented the awful jolting in an ingenious way. One would expect ingenuity from so knowing-looking a bird, and he is that, though he does look such a fool at times. He took a firm grip of the front perch which was low, and rested his shoulders on the floor. He gave me an awful shock at the first halt to change horses, but he seemed all right directly I put my hand in to move him. He was on his back again at the next halt, and again perfectly all right, so I watched him at the start; at first there was nothing to see; I could not see him except by walking beside the tonga. Near the end of the journey he became very knowing, and was on his back almost before the tonga started getting back on the perch and feeding very soon after the tonga stopped.

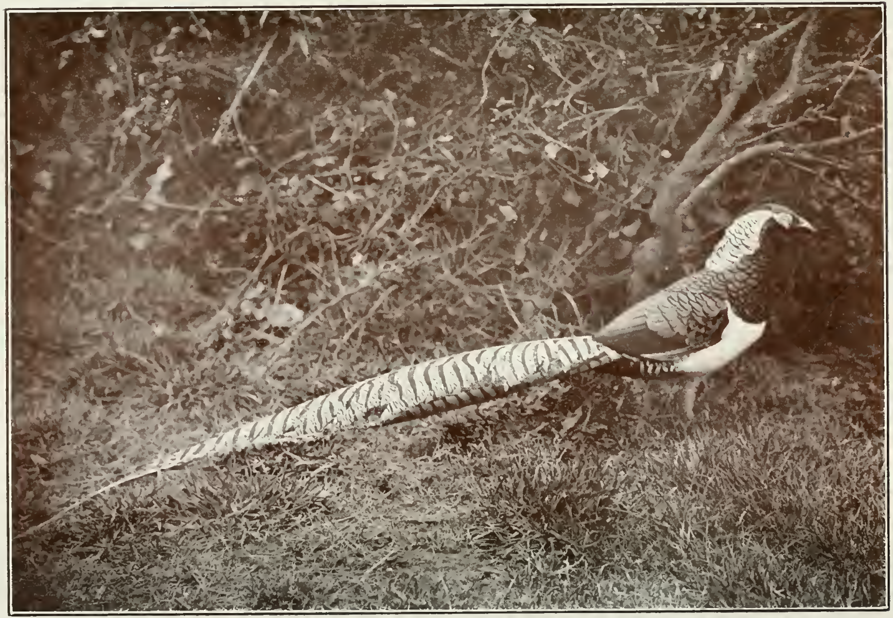
The bird in a wild state has rather an ungainly flight, and is seen at its best busily bustling about the branches of flowering trees or peering into the crevices abounding in the clumps of orchid bulbs (I fancy bulb is not the correct term). My bird was caught in an *Erythryna* (Coral Tree), the gorgeous flowers of which are most popular with Sunbirds and such like, and whose thorns ar emost unpopular with a would-be catcher. We (my cheery planter friend and myself) to a certain extent beat the thorns by fastening a flue net to a split bamboo frame and hoisting the whole concern into a suitable place by a rope, throwing a stone attached to a string over a suitable branch, hauling up and steadying with guy-ropes at the lower corners. The Gurkha coolie simply slices off the thorns, but as these trees are all thorns and very nice trees, we stopped that. It is quite easy to fix up a flue net or nets in suitable positions up a tree when one is in the tree, though one may have to become fairly expert in balancing with one toe round a branch to leave the hands free, but hoisting up a frame in a *suitable* place is really no joke. However it was worth it.

My bird and his next-door neighbour, the Crow-Tit, were quite the most popular birds on board ship; Beaky and Stuffy they were nick-named. Beaky took some time over his mealworm. Stuffy having finished the head used to get very impatient for his rind; heads and rinds were his perk, and this sometimes put Beaky off his feed. The latter seemed not to understand that Stuffy's stumpy little beak, the curious feature in a Crow Tit, could not possibly harm him through the wire. His own long beak was often in one of his neighbour's dishes. His bath, too, was watched with interest; it was rather a fraudulent affair, as he would not get into the water (the dish may have been unsuitable) but that didn't matter, he did it all with much fuss with his beak, and enjoyed it immensely, and what's more kept very clean. I believe he could bathe in a thimble if it was deep enough.

But his great act was making love, fluffing out all his feathers and causing them to quiver, drumming slightly, with partly opened wings, turning his head and poking his beak through the bars to tickle the heads of his neighbours. The Hanging Parrakeets on his other side would have none of it, but Stuffy seemed to enjoy it very much, though he always seemed a bit nervous at the start of a bout. This would go on sometimes for twenty minutes at a time. According to our standard of beauty the bird had no special vanity to display. One could have understood it, had he possessed axillary plumes; perhaps his ancestors once had them, or his descendants will have them. I wish he had a chance of descendants in captivity. People asked if I was going to breed from the incongruous pair. I can hardly think of a less likely hybrid.

I should not think he would stand great cold, though I had him in an unheated room with a door always open when it was snowing outside. I would not trust him *again* with a smaller bird; *verb. sap.* His plumage is greenish, lighter below, with black streaks. Size 7 inches, including a tail of two and a bill of 1.8 inches. Oates states that the nest is an open cup of vegetable fibres felted together, mingled with dead leaves, and lined with grass. It has a wide range, and occurs up to 5,000 feet. I believe it is fairly common in some parts, so I hope others will come home. I ought to apologise again, but will try to make up for the length of this by cutting down the writing about the remaining bird figured.

The Larger Red-headed Crow-Tit (*Scacorhynchus ruficeps*) is the only one of their curious family and my bird (now presented to the Zoo) is the only one of his species I have seen alive, and that I never saw wild as he (or may be she) was brought to me, with several Laughing Thrushes, in a loosely-woven grass bag. Our first acquaintance was painful as he got first grip; I couldn't see into the bag, and the Gurkha coolies thoroughly enjoyed the joke of not telling me there was a biter in the bag. Several men had been caught with the same joke. I thought it was a Parrot from the feel, but concluded it must be a rare one from the size and hung on, though I fancy I had little choice, as the bird was frightened and in the dark. He did not let go at once even when



Male Lady Amherst's Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*)

Photo by H. Willford.

loosed into a cage. Since then I've taken good care to get first grip.

He took readily to captivity, partaking of mealworms and cake and milk at once, and very soon took to insect food. He likes the cake unbroken and nearly dry. Fruit he did not seem to care for, but he had little choice in this line. Greenstuff was appreciated. I found seed untouched and dropped giving it, but he would be very likely to eat it, failing other food. Mealworms he places under his foot, in true Tit-style, and then proceeds to masticate the worm deliberately; he gets through them more quickly now than he did. He is not so tame as he was; probably misses his individual attention and wants Beaky to "bring him out."

For show he has not points, but he should be most interesting to the aviculturist who could give him room to himself (this I should advise, remembering that bite). The figure is excellent. Rough description, head chestnut; upper parts olive brown, under parts white, eyelids and mouth blue. Size $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tail $3\frac{1}{2}$, bill from gape .6 inches. It is found in the E. Himalayas up to 2,500 feet.

Mr. Kinnear, of the Bombay Natural History Society, was much struck with the narrow face when viewed from in front. From skins he thought the face was full and round like a Parrot's. I mention this to show the value of drawings from the live bird. Mr. Goodchild shows this characteristic, and I doubt if even he could have done so from a skin and a description.

(To be continued).

Some Interesting Birds

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Illustrated from Life by H. Willford.

(Continued from page 119).

The Lady Amherst's Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*). A beautiful species of a gorgeously plumaged group; some idea of its elegance, and also its exquisitely barred and variegated plumage will be gathered from Mr. Willford's characteristic photograph (*see opposite*), taken as it wandered naturally in one of his roomy wilderness aviaries; of its full beauty even the brush of the artist must fall far short, and the word-picture given below of its plumage is poor indeed compared with the glowing beauty of the living bird.

Adult Male: Top of head rich, sheeny, dark bronze-green; long crest plumes intense blood-red; cape-like feathers of the back of the neck glistening snow-white, margined and barred with glossy steel-blue; shoulders, mantle and chest sheeny dark green; rump, glossy black, each feather tipped with rich buff; throat and fore-neck brownish-black, glossed with dark green; remainder of underparts snow-white, barred with black on the flanks; the two central tail-feathers are white, barred and lined with black; with the other tail-feathers barred with black and buff; set off by the beautiful broad scarlet-tipped side hangers; naked skin round eye blue; eye, white; legs, bluish-green. Length: From tip to tip of tail 4¼ feet, tail 3 feet.

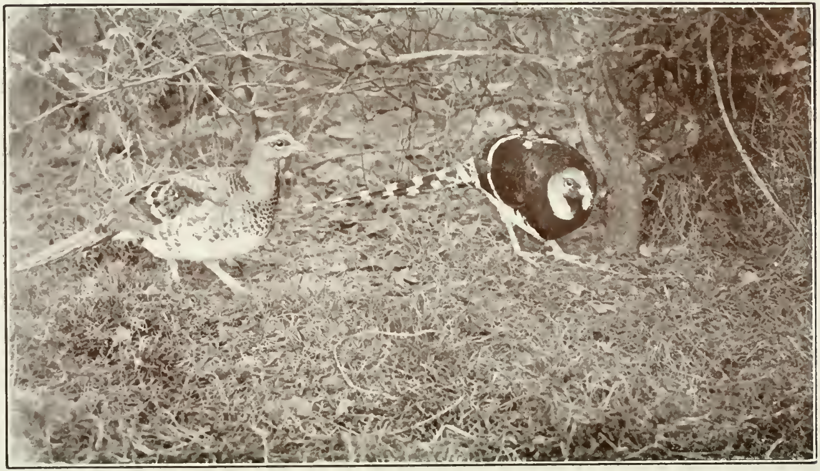
Adult Female: Head and mantle brown, barred with black and buff and variegated with rufous-brown; lower back and rump light brown, thickly and finely mottled with black; throat buff; sides of head and under-parts buff, barred with black except on the middle of abdomen: naked skin round eye blue. Length 2¼ feet, tail 14 inches.

Habitat: This fine species ranges over the mountains of Western China and Eastern Tibet.

Eggs: Short stubby oval in shape, of a light buff colour, with smooth and glossy shells. Average size 1⅞ x 1⅜ inches.

In Captivity: To view this fine species, as has been been my privilege on many occasions, is to indulge in a feast of beauty not easily forgotten, and to make one long for spacious flights to indulge one's appetite, not merely with this species, but also other rare species of the PHASIANINÆ. It is little short of marvellous to see the ease and grace with which the cock carries his 3 feet tail, and also avoids obstructions likely to damage same, so that even in somewhat limited quarters, it is kept in good condition for a long period.

Pheasants are the better for spacious runs, and these should not be overcrowded, or the ground soon becomes tainted.



Elliot's Pheasants (*Calophasis ellioti*, Swinhoe) in one of Mr. H. Willford's natural aviaries.

Photo by H. Willford.

There should also be plenty of cover, both in the open flights and shelters; in the latter heaps of brushwood lying on sand will fully meet the case; while as to the former, low growing and spreading evergreen bushes, such as Berberis, Laurel, Rhododendron, Gorse, Heather, etc., all make good cover: of course such kinds must be chosen as flourish best in respective localities; any local nurseryman would suggest others of similar character, where many of the above do not flourish.

Pheasants do well on a general mixture of small cereals and seeds, with game meal, and an abundance of greenfood, where the runs are not of sufficient extent to furnish this it must be liberally supplied. During the winter, when greenfood fails, various roots, such as Mangel-Wurzel, may be given, but they should not be left in the open on frosty nights. In fact, the better plan is to supply what will be eaten, or to make a practice of taking indoors nightly any unconsumed roots during the periods frosts are likely to occur.

Pheasant chicks in their earlier stages should get plenty of live food—ants' cocoons, maggots, etc.—also custard and meal.

If the runs are at all confined, a frequent gathering up of the birds' voidings will tend to keep the earth sweet for a much longer period, and a light annual top dressing of fresh soil, together with an occasional digging and re-sodding, will keep them fresh and sweet for quite long periods.

The Lady Amherst's Pheasant inhabits rocky regions, and their run should be well drained, and, if it can be raised above the ordinary ground level, so much the better for the birds.

Pheasants readily interbreed, and very fine hybrids result from crossing this species with the Golden (*C. pictus*) and also the Reeves's (*Phasianus revesii*).

THE ELLIOT'S PHEASANT (*Calophasis ellioti*). Another beautiful Pheasant, which like the preceding species is most difficult for either pen or brush to adequately depict. It belongs to the group of Barred-back Pheasants, and though very different from the Lady Amherst's Pheasant, is equally beautiful; in fact their exquisite and contrasty plumage make them even more noticeable as they wander about a roomy and natural run, as depicted in the fine photograph illustrating these notes. It is fully as large a bodied bird as the Lady Amherst's, the difference in the length of the tail accounting for the wide difference in the measurement of the two species. The following is little more than a sketchy description of the exquisite plumage of this species:

Adult Male: Head and neck whitish-grey; mantle, shoulders, wing and breast fiery bronze-red, glossed with a rich golden sheen; the mantle is bordered by two white bands, and two white bars cross each wing; a band of metallic purplish-steel crosses the lesser wing-coverts; throat, fore-neck and abdomen white; lower back and rump black, laced with white; tail whitish-grey, barred with cinnamon-chestnut. Total length 33 inches, tail 19.

Adult Female: General colour light drab-brown, barred and variegated with black above and spotted on the breast; abdomen white; back and sides of neck greyish-brown; throat and fore-neck black; outer tail-feathers cinnamon-chestnut with black and white tips. Total length 20 inches, tail 7¾.

Habitat: It ranges over the mountains of South-eastern China; where it was first discovered by Swinhoe in the province of Che-Kiang. It lives in the wooded mountains, moving from place to place, and is not by any means common.

Eggs: Buffish-cream colour, shell smooth and glossy. Average size, 1¾ by 1¼ inches.

In Captivity: While watching this species amid the natural environment of one of Mr. Willford's numerous aviaries I could not avoid the conclusion how well they earned their title "magnificent species," their contrasty plumage standing out grandly against a background of living green.

The vice of savagery (common in a greater or lesser degree to most species of Pheasants) is very noticeable with this species, and at pairing time the cock may kill the hens, unless carefully watched, if the run be a small one; in roomy natural quarters this trait is not so apparent. With a very vicious cock it is a good plan to clip his wings and also hobble his legs by tying with a cord, leaving the hen full and free use of wings and feet.

The food and general treatment given for the preceding species will fully meet the needs of this, and need not be re-capitulated.

As the purport of these articles is not merely to describe their plumage and characteristics, but also to be informative as to how to keep and breed, a few concluding remarks, referring to pheasants generally may not be out of place.

Their quarters should be a roomy grass run, with a shelter shed at the back, and should have a south aspect.

They are mostly hill birds and cannot endure heat, so their run should be planted with spreading evergreens and other bushes to provide an abundance of shade and cover.

As already indicated they must be watched at pairing time, and the movements of really vicious cocks hampered to some extent.

Pheasant hens do not often show much inclination to sit, and the common practice is to collect the eggs and place them under Silky or Bantam hens.

Pheasant chicks need much animal food in their earlier stages, but success can usually be attained with custard, ants' cocoons, gentles, also game meals, canary and millet seed—greenfood, *i.e.*, lettuce, etc., must be liberally supplied even to those occupying grass runs.

(*To be continued*).

The Breeding of Grey Finches

(*Spermophila grisea*),

and Guttural Finches

(*S gutturalis*).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

Among the small Grosbeaks, the *Spermophilæ* and their near allies have for some years past greatly interested me, why, perhaps, it is difficult to say, for as a rule they are quietly clad and under some conditions are somewhat lethargic in demeanour—they do not always find a ready sale when on the market, for, speaking generally of the genus as a whole, there is not much to look at for your money, when you've bought them; nevertheless, in spite of all this they are interesting and pretty birds, very shapely, with some most happy combinations of grey, brown, tawny, white and black among them, while the Marsh Finch (*S. palustris*) is strikingly handsome. They certainly call into being all one's powers of observation if you are going to know anything about their doings, for, in a roomy wilderness aviary, unless looked for, they are not seen for weeks at a stretch. Most of them have really passable songs; courting display, so far as I have noted it, only consists of the fluttering of the wings and a tremulous movement of the whole body, as if every part worked on springs, and then a chasing of its mate. Well, I expect my readers will consider this as writing in rather a minor key; be this as it may, they certainly are favourites of mine.

THE GREY FINCH (*Spermophila grisea*) is rather a handsome species in his garment of various greys, blackish and white; and before giving the nesting episode, I had better describe the plumage.

Adult Male: Above it is mostly dark grey, with a slaty sheen, and washed lightly with brown on the rump and upper tail-coverts; wing-coverts blackish, narrowly edged with ashy grey, outer webs of the inner primaries are white at the base, forming a small white patch, which is almost obscured by the coverts; tail feathers blackish, with dusky grey margin, the central feathers with a slight ashy sheen; lores and base of cheeks blackish; crown, sides of face, ear-coverts, sides of neck and throat, sides of body and flanks dark grey with a slaty sheen; chin whitish; breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts white; beak yellow; legs and feet brownish grey. Total length, 4⅝ inches, tail 1½.

Adult Female: Above palish olive brown; wings dusky brown with grey margins; crown dusky; lores, eye region, ear-coverts, cheeks, thighs, and under tail-coverts pale olive; centre of breast and abdomen whitish brown. Total length 1½ inches; tail 1½.

Habitat: According to the British Museum Catalogue the distribution is from Guiana to Venezuela; Trinidad and Colombia, extending to Panama.

In 1911 two young Grey Finches were successfully reared in my aviary, and lived some time after being able to fend for themselves, but as all I knew about these birds (Mr. W. E. Teschemaker had a similar happening almost concurrently), was the increase in the number of my stock and knew nothing about either nest or incubation—certainly I did see the old cock feed them on two occasions—the event was not claimed as a record and practically no notice taken of it. The only satisfaction one could claim from such an occurrence was the knowledge that young had been reared from a species of a genus particularly shy of reproducing their kind in captivity.

The following year (1912), the same pair repeated their success of the previous year, going one better, for two broods of three each were reared, but the second brood died about a month after leaving the nest. Unfortunately for me, 1912 was a year of continuous high pressure, and the details I gathered of the episode are but meagre, more especially as owing to the afore mentioned pressure I lost my loose notes before they were entered up, and of course under such circumstances I shall not give dates, though I promptly entered up the facts, when I discovered the loss. In April I noticed them (both male and female) take part in nest construction and also in the duties of incubation, building a nest in a rambler rose, amid the thick growth and close against the standard supporting the rose: nothing came of this; they deserted, evidently being disturbed by other birds—later a pair of Olive Finches altered the nest and successfully brought off a brood, so perhaps they were the cause of the Grey Finches discomfiture.

The Grey Finches did not lose much time, for I saw them carrying material again within a very few days, and soon a nest was completed in a privet bush. A clutch of three eggs was duly laid and incubation went steadily forward. The nest, a substantial cup-shaped structure of hay and grass, was well sheltered by a densely foliaged and overhanging branch of a hazel bush. The bird commenced to sit with the second egg and incubation lasted thirteen days. The young birds left the nest when about twenty-one days old. They then resembled the adult hen, but were slightly greyer and lightly streaked on the breast. I regret that my editorial duties, etc., left me scarcely any time to observe my birds, but for the first seven days the young birds were fed entirely on live food, many insects were captured in the aviary, in addition mealworms, gentles, ants' cocoons, and wasps' grubs were liberally supplied; at about the tenth day I saw them go straight from the soft-food dish to the nest and feed their progeny, yet on ordinary occasions they never take soft food, simply seed, greenfood, and a few insects. Of this brood I can't say definitely how many are still living, certainly one, as I saw to-day (April 30th) two cocks together, one of which must be a young bird; they were exactly alike as to size and plumage.

The second nest was placed in the flowering heads of a large dock, four feet above the ground, and right in the centre of the aviary. On this occasion the cup-shaped structure was partly roofed in, and I was able to watch the two birds busily engaged in their task; the nest could not be called a sphere, or yet an oval, the cup was finished first, then round about two-thirds of it a low slight wall was built and then a thick top put on. The clutch was again three and again all hatched out and the three young were fully reared, but they only survived their exit from the nest about one month. I found the cold wet of last autumn very fatal to young birds, and lost many.

THE GUTTURAL FINCH (*S. gutturalis*). It is rather fortunate I am coupling these two nesting accounts together, for one is almost a replica of the other, and this account need be but brief. The appearance of this species is certainly not brilliant, yet it certainly is pleasing, and the plumage is totally different from that of the preceding species, and I had better describe it before going on with the nesting episode.

Adult Male: Above dull olive-green; wings dusky with olive-green margins; a band of yellowish white at the base of the inner primaries; tail dusky brown with olive-green margins; crown, sides of face, ear-coverts, cheeks, sides of neck, and fore-neck dusky black; throat black; breast, abdomen, sides of body, flanks and under tail-coverts pale yellowish white with a greenish tinge; sides of flanks slightly mottled with black; beak blackish horn; legs and feet brownish grey. Total length 4½ inches, tail 1⅝.

Adult Female: Above olive-brown; median and greater coverts dusky with olive-brown margins and whitish tips; primaries, flights and tail feathers dusky with olive-brown margins; crown, sides of face and ear coverts olive-brown, the latter slightly streaked with whitish; lores, eye region, and breast whitish buff; cheeks and under surface of body buffish-ochre; sides and flanks light olive-brown; thighs and under tail-coverts pale whitish-ochre. Total length 4 inches, tail 1⅝.

Habitat: "Brazil, Guiana, Venezuela, Colombia, extending into Panama, Ecuador, and Peru." (B.M.C.)

There really remains very little to tell of the nesting episode, as it is so similar to the details already given of the preceding species. They did not show a desire to go to nest so early as the Grey Finches, and it was not till July that their nest was complete, cunningly set in the fork of a Bay bush. The nest was cup-shaped, but neater and not so bulky as that constructed by the Griseas. Three eggs were laid on successive days, and incubation lasted thirteen days. Like *grisea* both male and female took part in nest construction and also in the care of the young.

They reared their young on live food, for at least seven days, and then began to take soft food and seed, but insects formed a large part of the food of the young up to the time of leaving its nest; for out of the two hatched out only one left the nest; it still lives and is now indistinguishable from its father. When it left the nest it resembled the adult female, a little duller perhaps, but even then signs of black on the throat proclaimed it to be of the male sex.

Now, in conclusion, just a word on the genus generally. They certainly are interesting birds and if not gorgeous in plumage are chastely and prettily clad birds, not one among them that can be readily termed plain. They have a nice little song, some a really good one, and very few of the numerous species and sub-species (about 40) have been bred. I have possessed at least twelve species of this genus at different times, and with the exception of the White-throated Finch (*S. albigularis*) all have proved themselves safe in a mixed series, and as one observes them, with their almost natural deportment in a large wilderness aviary, they are most pleasing and interesting birds. Their wants are very simple; the main dietary when not feeding young is canary and millet seeds, greenfood, and an occasional mealworm, but in the aviary they are not keen on the latter, as they undoubtedly capture what live food they require for themselves; they are very fond of cuttlefish bone, and bathe daily, even in the winter. There is one difficulty in connection with them, for though the plumage of male and female is distict, yet the females of some of the species are so similar, that though one certainly has male and female, it is by no means easy to ascertain if they are of the same species. However, though very annoying and troublesome, such difficulties and their accompanying disappointments are the sauce that gives zest to the pursuit of aviculture.

On the Keeping of Soft Bills in Cages

By Otto Puck.

Continued from page 115.

The two golden rules of successful management are CLEANLINESS and REGULARITY in feeding. As "cleanliness comes next to godliness," I could not imagine a good bird being kept in a dirty cage. I like to see them kept in stock-cages, as nice and clean as you see them in show-cages on the bench, and as a matter of fact always keep mine under such conditions so that they make a little show of themselves, a pleasure to me and I feel sure to themselves. As a healthy mind goes with a healthy body, so healthy surroundings must keep birds healthy. There should be a place for everything and everything in its place. Leave nothing to chance. Make sure you have a good stock of all the various foods on hand; nothing is more annoying than to run short of a certain food just when you may want it most. By a good stock I do not mean that you should lay in sufficient to last you, say all winter, that would be a mistake, as some foods might deteriorate. Buy enough to last you a month or two, then you can make sure of getting the food in a fresh state. Always keep your foods in a dry and airy place. Dampness is fatal and breeds mites which destroy the food. Ants'-eggs and flies should always be screened to free them from dust, also silkworm pupæ and hempseed.

Hand in hand with cleanliness goes Hygiene. Always provide for plenty of fresh air in the Bird-room, and ventilate freely without exposing the birds to a draught. Draughts are very dangerous, and once a bird has caught a cold, it is often very difficult to cure it, and here I may give a word of caution. When you buy a new bird, especially in the autumn, when the nights get chilly, do not let it indulge in a bath on arrival. Allow it to satisfy its thirst, and no more; it will be all right next day. If on the other hand the bird takes a bath, which naturally a healthy bird coming from a long journey is most anxious to do on being liberated from the travelling box, in nine cases out of ten, the bird, if it arrived in the evening, will not be able to thoroughly dry its plumage; some wet themselves through and through, and next morning you behold an object of perfect misery, suffering from a bad cold, and pneumonia generally follows, with fatal results.

To give birds the benefit of open air treatment, I always, during the summer months, from June to September, put some in their cages out of doors in a covered verandah. Care must be taken, however, that they are not exposed to draughts. With careful feeding they will stand a good deal of cold during the night, and as long as the cage is big enough for them for them to take plenty of exercise, no harm will follow.

Cold versus Warm Treatment. I am no believer in coddling, but if you want to keep tender Soft-bills in cages in good health during the winter months, some amount of warmth and a regular temperature are necessary. I have heard Nightingales singing in Aviaries with the water frozen; the comparison between aviary kept and birds kept in cages is obvious. In the former they can enjoy plenty of exercise, whereas in the latter, room is restricted, and the birds not so active; hence they are more susceptible to climatic changes. I believe in maintaining during the day-time of the winter months an average temperature of 60 degrees F.; during the night it may go down to 50 degrees F., and the birds will be all the better for it, as, when roosting, they tuck their heads under their wing, and their own respiration keeps their body warm by circulating warm air round it. It is in the day time, when at rest, that they need a comfortable, warm room. How to get this even temperature has been a vexed question, and a trouble for years with me, and I have spent a lot of time and labour on it. Oil stoves, gas stoves, and hot-water apparatus are things of the past, they all have their disadvantages; either it is the fumes, or when the boiler is placed in an adjacent room, not sufficient heat is developed, or the air of the room gets too dry and dries up the food, or they fail to act when mostly needed, say on a cold day in January. However, I think I have now solved the difficulty, and hit upon the right thing, and that is an anthracite stove, similar to a greenhouse Tortoise stove. There are no fumes and the heat can be regulated to a nicety. It burns night and day, requires attention only twice a day, and consumes very little fuel, about 2s. a week, whereas the gas-bill! least said about it the better. To provide for moisture, a small tank filled with water put on top of the stove keeps evaporating day and night. On very mild days I open the window at top and close the door of the room, and during the night reverse the order of things, so there is always plenty of fresh air, and as my cages are arranged round the room, no direct draughts strike on the birds. No bird-room should be without a minimum- and maximum-registering thermometer, as it is very important to know how much the temperature falls during the night.

My method of feeding is simplicity itself, provided you can carry it out regularly and systematically. You cannot give soft-bills a supply to last them several days, as the food would turn bad. You must give them their daily ration at a fixed hour in the morning. All the year round I give the Stock-mixture, described in a previous article, as a basis, for this reason. If you want to keep your birds during the summer months till autumn on live foods only, first of all you will have to carefully and gradually get them used to same, a little at first, increasing the quantity day by day, and *vice versa* when live food is getting scarcer in the autumn, to get the birds used again to stock-mixture. Now, although you may take precautions for a continuous supply of live ants-eggs during the season, it may happen that through stress of weather the supply fails for a week, and what happens? If your birds have been used to nothing else but live ants-eggs for say a month, and you all of a sudden put stock-mixture before them, their digestion gets upset, it is all over with song, soft-moult may set in, and you will have some losses to mourn; therefore take the lesson, never let them be without stock-mixture, sprinkle live ants-eggs on top, and if they should have to go without them for a short time, there is no danger of losing any birds. The above applies to adult birds which have been caged some time; freshly caught ones must be fed differently, and "meated off" before they get used to any prepared food. When at large they feed on nothing but live insects, and in the autumn some eat berries; they will therefore not touch any but live food, and the process of gradually weaning them from live insect food to prepared or inert insect food, is called "meating off." Why "meating off," I do not know, but the name may be a survivor of bygone days, when soft-bills were "meated-off" on hard boiled egg and scraped lean beef, or mutton; hence "meating."

Nothing is easier than to meat-off a freshly-caught bird, but I am afraid through the ignorance or thoughtlessness of their purchaser many are added to the death roll every year. First of all cover the entire front of Stock-cage with calico, to keep the freshly-caught bird quiet, put water in the bottom of the cage, and sprinkle some dried ants'-eggs on the top of the water. On the bird jumping about, these will move on the surface of the water, and he may eat them, also throw some mealworms with heads bruised on the cage bottom, and put in a vessel with gentles, small mealworms, and a few earthworms (small); put your bird into the cage, and stand same in a quiet and light place, and leave well alone. After an hour see if the bird has partaken of some food, if it has, the battle is won, but if it has not done so, and will not do so, after another hour, then you must cram some of the live food minced up down its throat, and be sure it swallows it, else you will have a corpse next morning. Once a bird has taken to feeding itself, it is easy enough to get it on to the stock-food. All you have to do is to mix a little of it at first with his live food, cut up some mealworms, and as particles of the prepared food will adhere to same he will soon learn to eat the latter. No more than you would like to be kept on the same diet all the year round, would same agree with the birds; it must be varied and varied according to the seasons. During the winter months the stock-mixture answers very well, but when the days lengthen, and as spring advances, the caged soft-bills require some additional "live" insect food to lay in some fresh stamina for the coming season, and to assist them in getting well through the moulting period. There is nothing better for this purpose than live ants'-cocoons, and you should procure these, if possible a fresh supply daily, as early as they can be obtained in April or May. Do not change the birds' diet at once, that would result in disaster, as already explained; but sprinkle a few cocoons at once in the morning, but give half then, and the other half in the afternoon, otherwise the birds will over-eat themselves on the live-food, and leave the stock-food alone. Another splendid adjunct is wasp-grub, and a few of these might also be added with advantage to the food. As these live foods are very stimulating, the use of mealworms, if the birds have been used to any, must be discontinued during the whole time they are fed upon additional live food. As a matter of fact I am rather inclined to discourage the use of mealworms; at any rate they should be given sparingly, and only at a time when the birds are actually in song, and then, according to size of bird, from 6 to 24 a day will do no harm. On the other hand, if birds are largely fed on same, mischief, particularly foot trouble, is sure to follow. Being very stimulative and fattening, some birds will get such a craving for mealworms as almost to refuse other food, and once a bird has become unduly corpulent, it is one of the most difficult problems to reduce the bulk and restore the equilibrium. Stout birds as a rule do not enjoy good health, and very seldom sing. Whilst on this subject I may state my personal experience with two birds which are very much given to over feeding during the winter months, and in consequence not long lived, and further how I overcame the difficulty. The two birds in question are the Garden Warbler and Icterine Warbler, and the guardian angel has been fruit and plenty of exercise. Nearly all Warblers will eat fruit in the autumn, so I thought I would try it also on the two above mentioned, although none of the authorities I consulted made a mention of it. All are agreed that both these birds are rather voracious and over-feed during the winter months; they eat nearly all day long, which makes them very corpulent by January or February, and as that is their time of moulting, either they do not moult at all, or die in the attempt. The question therefore was how to keep them in a good state of health to get over the moult. To this end I first of all put them in a large cage, kept the food vessels far apart, so as to induce exercise, and then tried a fruit diet, leaving curds and eggs out of the stock-food. Both birds throve well, and the Icterine Warbler is now in his third year of captivity, looking as well as ever.

All healthy soft-bills should be in song from December—January, to June—July. They do not break into full song at once, but commence softly at first, increasing their volume day by day until they reach their full climax about April. From that time they will gradually drop off, and finally stop altogether, and one fine morning in July you will find a few small feathers on the cage bottom; these are the first signs of the beginning of the moult, and you must take steps accordingly to bring this to a successful issue. There is nothing alarming about the moult; it is one of nature's laws that all birds shall shed their plumage, and renew same once annually. All you have to do is to keep the birds quiet, give them plenty of light, live ants-eggs, and wasp-grub, and guard against draughts. Spiders are very beneficial during the moult, and now and again I mix a few drops of sulphite of iron (1 to 10 in water), with the stock-food and also some powdered cuttle-fish bone. Cages containing freshly-caught birds should be gradually uncovered after the bird has stopped singing, and when there are the first signs of moult, the cage front should be quite uncovered, to allow plenty of light and air, which are essential to successful moulting.

Nearly all soft-bills will eat fruit during the autumn, some all the year round; fruit, therefore, such as cherries, elderberries, green-figs, blackberries, ripe pears, etc., should always form part of the menu during the moult, and after; when pears run short, a baked apple will do equally well; in fact apple is a splendid aperient, and a preventative against obesity, and raw apple may be mixed, grated with the ants-eggs, instead of carrot, and given to such birds as are inclined to over-feed themselves. The moult should be finished in from four to six weeks, and when your birds have again resumed their normal plumage you must examine each one as to its state of bodily health—if too thin, feed on richer food; if found too stout—feed on plainer food, and generally speaking make the latter a practice after moult until December--January, when the birds begin to start singing again.

During the long winter evenings light a lamp in the bird room for two hours, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. so that the birds can see to feed, as from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. is too long a time for them to fast.

I think I have very nearly exhausted my subject on management; there is only one item left, and not a very pleasant one to deal with, and that is ailments. But if you follow out my instructions as to feeding you need not anticipate much trouble from ailments—of course, accidents will happen.

There is no better indicator of a bird's health than its excreta; when normal, this should be compact and whitish; if greenish, thin, and watery, it shows that the bird has either caught a cold or its food has disagreed with it; in that case I have always found, if applied immediately on being detected, that a few drops of sulphite of iron (1 in 10 of water) either added to the food, or put into the drinking water, will put matters right. If on the other hand the droppings are hard, and the bird has trouble in passing them, then either some liquid magnesia or a few drops of sulphate of soda (1 in 10 of water) will effect a cure.

Water is often the cause of trouble. It should never be given icy cold, but always with the chill off. Sometimes it may be too hard, especially for new arrivals; a few drops of magnesia will rectify this.

Some trouble may be experienced after moulting during the birds natural migrating period—in August and September. Instinct teaches them, as insect food becomes scarcer, at the end of the summer, to migrate to southerly climes, where the rainy period has set in, and in consequence insect life is abundant. Particularly during their first season of caged life the desire to be on the wing and go south is very strong in some birds, and although they keep perfectly quiet during the day-time, they become restless during the night. Migration takes place during the night, and as the birds will flutter about their cages at night time, the inside of the cage, except for the perches, should be free from any obstacle, and the top of soft material, as already advised, so that they cannot hurt themselves. You can do nothing to stop this nightly fluttering except to keep the room dark, and as the unwonted exercise leaves them somewhat exhausted in the day-time, supply extra nourishing food to keep up their strength. With some birds this nocturnal unrest occurs again in spring during March—April, corresponding with their migratory flight when returning to our shores from the sunny south, but then it is of shorter duration, and requires very little extra attention, if the birds are strong and healthy.

You should keep only strong and healthy birds, weaklings in a cage never do well, and instead of trying to doctor them, it is best to put them out of their misery.

In conclusion' there are one or two points which every keeper of birds should take well to heart. Always be kind to the birds, and never lose your temper. Approach them always in the same friendly way, and if you come across some stubborn ones have patience your reward will come. Do not handle birds more than you can help. They are very sensitive and remember rough treatment for a long time. If you want to remove a bird from its cage, in order to cleanse the latter, drive the bird mentioned into another cage, and let it hop back into its own cage when ready. Never introduce a freshly acquired bird at once into your bird-room, keep it in quarantine in another room for at least a week, it may to all appearances look perfectly well, yet be infected with that dread disease, septic fever, and last but not least, never keep more birds than you can conveniently look after, and remember the alpha and omega "cleanliness and regularity."

Editorial,

The Hon. Editor and his Family express sincere thanks for expressions of kind sympathy, and condolence. Mr. Page regrets that it is quite impossible to answer them individually and asks that one and all will accept this acknowledgment of their keen appreciation and thanks.

Nesting Notes: These notes from all sources cannot appear this month, as doubtless a feeling of sympathy has checked communications on this topic recently, and probably the long continued cold winds and rains, following the early mild spell have checked nesting operation. However, there are young of various Grassfinches, Budgerigars, and Parrakeets already on the wing, details of which must be deferred till next issue. In the Editor's aviary Olive Finches and one or two species of *Spermophilæ* are either building or incubating, but a clutch of Grey-wing Ouzel's eggs, all but due to hatch, have been deserted owing to too apparent observation of their doings.

FOSTER PARENTS: Our member Mr. W. A. Bainbridge placed the egg of a Diamond Finch (*Steganopleura guttata*) under a Bengalese, the egg duly hatched out and the young Diamond Finch (ten days old at the time of penning these notes) is thriving, with every appearance of being fully reared.

MEMBERS' AVIARIES: We recently visited the aviaries Mr. R. S. de Quincy Quincy at Chislehurst. He has a nice series of naturally arranged and roomy flights with suitable shelters; the largest of the latter is fitted up as a bird-room, having several roomy flights at one end and large flight cages at the back, for the winter housing of stock. A photo of these aviaries appeared in our last volume, and we need not further enlarge upon them here, save perhaps to state, that the cover consisted mainly of rhododendrons, gorse, and one or two deciduous shrubs, the gorse being a mass of gold on the occasion of our visit.

Upper Aviaries. A pair of roomy flights with shelters attached; one of these contained pairs of Redrumps and Cockatiels, 2 young Grenadier Weavers, a Comoro Weaver and an Orange Bishop; the other was given up to an exquisite pair of Red-naped Lorikeets.

Lower Aviaries. A group of five picturesque and practical flights and shelters, with occupants, as follows:

1. Six pairs Gouldian Finches, and pairs of Ruficauda Finches and Blue-winged Sivas.
2. 11 young Gouldian Finches (1912 reared birds, not yet in colour), 1 Long-tailed Grassfinch x Parson Finch hybrid, 2 Long-tailed Grassfinches, and 1 Parson Finch, and 2 Blue-winged Sivas.
3. Blue Tanager and Golden-eyed Babbler.
4. Pair of Silver-eared Mesias.
5. 1 pair Rufous-bellied Niltavas, 2 pairs Diamond Finches, 3 Ringed Finches, 1 Yellow-headed Gouldian (♀), the cock having died on the morning of our visit; and 1 Ruficauda Finch (♂).

Bank Aviary. Built on a steep bank over a huge, dense clump of rhododendrons, and given up to a pair of Silver-eared Mesias, which have already built a nest in a dense portion of the cover.

We had the pleasure of seeing the nests in which the

Grenadier Weavers reared their young last year; it will be remembered we figured these nests in our last volume to show the apparent practice of the parent birds to tear out the front of the nest when they considered the young should emerge. In nest No. 1, practically the whole of the front was torn down, and in nest No. 2, the same practice was apparent, only a stout fork of the bush to which it was attached prevented it being carried to the same extent.

We congratulate our member both on his aviaries and also the beautiful and uncommon series of birds he possesses, the pair of Rufous-bellied Niltavas is, we believe, the first true pair to reach England. We were shown the plan of a large bird-room, which is to have a central service passage, with five roomy flights on each side of same, those on the south side to have roomy out-door flights attached to them for summer use.

We also enjoyed the hospitality of our new member Dr. L. Lovell-Keys at East Hoathly for a few days, and had the opportunity of seeing his as yet incomplete aviaries and also those of Mr. H. L. Sich, and Mrs. A. Bonnick.

Dr. Lovell-Keays is erecting a Parrakeet and also a Finch aviary; both practical and roomy, but details must be deferred for the present. The Parrakeet aviary is now complete, and partly stocked, containing 2 pairs Green Budgerigars, and 1 pair each Tovi, All-Green, Moustache and Rosella Parrakeets, and Yellow Budgerigars. We wish our member a very successful initial season.

Mr. Sich's Aviary has already been described in our pages, but it is now well planted and the various bushes, creepers, etc., have developed well and provide excellent cover, and, combined with the small pond, make a very picturesque whole. It was practically unoccupied at the time of our visit, as, by an oversight, either a door was left open, or was insecurely fastened, and the wind blew it open, and when the aviary was visited in the morning, all the birds had escaped save two Waders and a Californian Quail. Mr. Sich is also extending, and two roomy and well planned aviaries are in course of erection.

Mrs. Bonnick's aviaries are fairly numerous, and contain Cockatoos, Parrakeets, Doves, Pigeons, Pheasants, Peafowl, Budgerigars, and small Ornamental Finches; one aviary, on the bank of a small lake, contained Gulls and Mandarin Ducks; this aviary is to be largely extended and to include a portion of the lake for a larger series of Waterfowl. All the birds are in excellent condition, and Budgerigars and the Finches were already nesting.

The Rev. G. H. Raynor, has also recently joined the ranks of aviculturists, and now possesses both Parrakeet and Finch aviaries, which we hope to figure in a future issue. In the Parrakeet aviary, there are Mealy Rosellas, 2 pairs Cockatiels (both the cocks talk), and Green Budgerigars, the latter of which have young ready to leave the nest, and the Mealy Rosellas are incubating. The Finch aviary has quite recently been stocked with Grassfinches, Waxbills, Mannikins, and Weavers.

We refrain from further details re the above aviaries, as we hope to have accounts from the respective aviarists later on.

A CONSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN FINCHES: Mr. Wallace successfully landed another large consignment of Australian Finches (said to be the last) about the middle of April, the whole going to Messrs. De Von and Co., and the bulk of them have been already distributed. Gouldian Finches, both Red- and Black-headed, formed the bulk of the consignment, but Crimson, Zebra, and Pectoral Finches, Long-tail and Masked Grassfinches; Diamond Doves, and Yellow-rumped Mannikins, and Bicheno's Finches were all included, some only in small numbers. As regards the Bicheno's Finches we did not see the bulk, but several pairs we have seen in the aviaries of purchasers were not Bicheno's but Ringed Finches (*Stictoptera annulosa*). The consignment included a pair of the rare Yellow-headed Gouldian Finch, probably the first to reach England alive, these passed into the hands of Mr. Maxwell, then to Mr. P. Owen, finally finding a lodgment in Mr. R. S. de Q. Quincy's aviary, where the cock has unfortunately died, but the hen will probably survive; if so, it will be mated with a Red-headed cock, and an attempt made to breed them this season. They were evidently young birds not fully in colour, their heads being yellowish-brick-red, with traces of bright yellow already apparent.

ANOTHER CONSIGNMENT OF RARE INDIAN BIRDS: Mr. W. Frost, who has been away in India for some months collecting birds for our member Major B. R. Horsbrugh, arrived with a large consignment (mostly soft-bills) of rare species, some of which are new to aviculture; the whole of the birds, though some of them are somewhat travel-worn, are in very good condition, and should do well when distributed among our members and other English aviculturists. Unfortunately details have only come to hand just as we are going to press, and we can only give a bare list in this issue.

Red-headed Tit (*Ægithaliscus erythrocephalus*).
Crested Black Tit (*Lophophanes melanolophus*).
Yellow cheeked Tit (*Machlolophus xanthogenys*).
Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticola*).
Indian Grey Tit (*P. atriceps*).
Rufous-necked Laughing Thrush (*Dryonastes ruficollis*).
Red-throated Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax ruficollis*).
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*).
Golden-eyed Babbler (*Pyctorhis sinensis*).
Black-throated Babbler (*Stachyrhis nigriceps*).
Yellow-breasted Babbler (*Mixornis rubricapillus*).
Pied-billed Babbler (*Stachyrhidopsis pyrrhops*).
Jungle Babbler (*Crateropus canorus*).
*Black-chinned Yuhina (*Yuhina nigrimentum*).
Yellow-naped Ixulus (*Ixulus flavicollis*).
Indian White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa*).
Hardwick's Green Fruitsucker (*Chloropsis hardwickii*).
Gold-fronted Green Fruitsucker (*C. aurifrons*),
Silver-eared Mesia (*Mesia argentauris*).
Blue-winged Siva (*Siva cyanuroptera*).
Brown-eared Bulbuls (*Hemixus flavala*).
Rufous-bellied Bulbuls (*H. macclellandi*).
*Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*).
Cinnamon-bellied Nuthatch (*S. cinnamomeiventris*).
*Large Indian Minivet (*Pericrocotus speciosus*).
Short-billed Minivet (*P. brevirostris*).
*Rosy Minivet (*P. roseus*).
Small Minivet (*P. peregrinus*).
Ruby-throat (*Calliope camtschatkensis*).
Verditer Flycatcher (*Stoparola melanops*).
Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher (*Siphia strophiata*).
*White-browed Blue Flycatcher)*Cyornis superciliaris*).
Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*).
White-capped Redstart (*Chimarrhornis leucocephalus*).
Blue-fronted Redstart (*Ruticilla frontalis*),
Indian Redstart (*R. rufiventris*)

Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*).
*Golden Bush-Robin (*Tarsiger chrysaeus*).
Brown-backed Robin (*Thamnobia cambaiensis*).
Shamas and Dhyal-Birds.
Pied Mynah (*Sturnopastor contra*).
Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush (*Petrophila erythrogastra*).
Blue-headed Rock-Thrush (*P. cinclorhyncha*)
Eastern Blue Rock-Thrush (*P. solitaria*)
White's Thrush (*Turdus varius*).
Orange-headed Ground-Thrush (*Geocichla citrinus*)
Beautiful Rosefinches (*Propasser pulcherrimus*)
Large Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla maderaspaiensis*)
Masked Wagtails (*M. personata*)
Blue-headed Wagtail (*M. flava*)
Indian Tree Pipit (*Anthus maculatus*)
*Yellow-backed Red Sunbird (*Æthopyga seheriae*)
*Yellow-backed Black-breasted Sunbird (*Æ. saturata*).
Purple Sunbird (*Arachnechthra asiatica*).
Amethyst-rumped Sunbird (*A. zeylonica*).
Tickell's Flower-Pecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchus*).
*Green-breasted Pitta (*Pitta cucullata*)
*Pigmy Pied, and Pigmy Woodpeckers
*Yellow-fronted, and Golden-backed Woodpeckers
Coppersmith Barbet (*Xantholoema hematocephala*)
*Fire Caps (*Cephalopyrus flammiceps*).
Brown Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula nepalensis*).
*Red-headed Tailor-Bird (*Orthotomus ruficeps*).
Persian Nightingale *Daulias golzi*).
Maroon Oriole (*Oriolus traillii*).
Grey-winged, and Tickell's Ouzels.
Black-winged Lory, and Forsten's Lorikeet.
Brahminy Kite, and Blue Rollers
Glossy Calornis, and White-bellied Drongo
Crow-pheasant, and Plovers

* New to aviculture.

Time has not permitted any systematic arrangement, but some of the species will be referred to again. Both Major Horsbrugh and Mr. Frost are to be congratulated on the extent, rarity, and condition of the consignment.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that Members from all round the coast will note the movements of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—**on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.—Ed.**

NOTES FROM N. UIST LIGHTHOUSE.

January 8—8 Fulmars (daily visitors).

„ 10—Starlings. Flock of Snow Buntings.

„ 11—Common Twite in flocks; morning and evening; daily visitors. A few Eider Duck round the rock.

„ 21—Several Puffins seen on the water, unusually early.

„ 22—About 26 Snow Buntings seen.

„ 23—Glaucous Gull and Flock of Black Guillemots.

„ 24—Several Common Guillemots on the water.

February 3—Guillemots and Razorbills.

AT SHORE STATION.

„ 5—Flock of Snow Buntings.

„ 6—5 Ravens (3 carrying nesting stuff).

„ 15—Northern Diver on Loch of Cliff.

ON ROCK.

„ 16—Kittiwakes, several on water.

„ 20—Peregrine Falcon, hovering above Lighthouse Dome.

„ 28—Oyster-Catcher (first of season).

March 20—Kittiwake on cliffs.

„ 22—One Skylark

„ 24—2 Glaucous Gulls

„ 28—Lapwing seen.

„ 28—Four Arctic Tern

„ 30—One Kestrel, inside Courtyard.

„ 30—Manx Shearwater, caught at Lantern.

Per D. E. P., April 14th, 1913.

„ 28—Saw the Ring-Ouzel at Seagrave Marsh (near Luton).

„ 31—Saw the Chiff-chaff in Luton; I had heard it several times for more than a fortnight.

April 6—Starlings nesting.

„ 20—Heard the Cuckoo.

„ 22—Saw Swallow flying overhead.

„ 24—Hear from reliable source that Martins are in the neighbourhood.

H. M. (Luton, Beds.)

„ 7—Wryneck at Danbury.

„ 22—Wryneck at Hazeleigh.

„ 16—Cuckoo at Danbury.

„ 20—Cuckoo at Hazeleigh.

„ 19—Swallow at Latchingdon, about noon.

„ 19—First Swallow at Hazeleigh, 4 p.m.

„ 20—Nightingale in Hazeleigh Wood, 9-30 p.m; still and warm, wind in South; not heard again till 3 p.m. on 24th.

„ 22—Tree Pipit, several seen, and heard singing at Hazeleigh at 5 p.m., temperature 50, wind E.

„ 24—Chiff-chaff abundant at 3 p.m. in Hazeleigh Wood which contains about 100 acres, and consists chiefly of oak and hornbeam.

„ 27—Blackcap, singing vigorously in a hedge at Hazeleigh; temperature 55 deg. F.; strong S. wind.

G. H. R., Hazeleigh, April 28, 1913

April 20—One Swallow seen about 5-15 p m. on Front near Clarence Pier, Southsea. D. E. P. (Southsea).

„ 18—Swallows seen here to-day; Cuckoo heard. Long-tailed Tits have been engaged in building operations for the past two weeks. Gold-crest and Nuthatch building within sight of my windows here; the former are quite numerous. Carrion Crows nesting, and some Moorhens just beginning to sit.

J. S. R., Leadenham, April 23, 1913.

„ 22—I heard two Wrynecks answering each other from opposite sides of the open road, but did not see them; however, others have been more fortunate. The Nightingale was heard in this district a few days ago. J. W., Ashley, Hants., Ap'l 27

„ 19—During a short stay at East Hoathly, Sussex, I heard the Cuckoo calling regularly, but did not sight it, at intervals during the days of 19th, 20th, and 21st.

„ 20—Saw the first Swallows arrive in the grounds of our member D. Lovell-Keays, who informs me they nest yearly on a beam in one of his outhouses. Also saw a Long-tailed Tit carrying nesting material. The Nightingale is now singing regularly in the district (East Hoathly and neighbourhood).

„ 26—Saw the first Chiff-chaffs and Willow Warblers in my garden; may have occured earlier unnoticed. W. T. P., Mitcham, April 30.

„ 23—There was an abnormal number of Chaffinches in Grimsby, particularly on the Fish Docks, an unusual place to see anything but sparrows. About 11 a.m. on this day I was informed that there were hundreds of Bullfinches on the ships in the docks and on the pontoon. I, of course, was curious to know something definite, and went to the docks. There I found that the report was correct, excepting that they were Chaffinches not Bullfinches, and on the ships' rigging many were seen perching in a dazed condition. From one of the skippers (Skipper A. Laye, of the steam trawler *Newhaven*), I got the following information: at about 5·30 p.m. on April 2nd when in lat. 53·58, lon. 4·15 E., wind blowing 10 miles an hour, direction S.E., about 600 Chaffinches approached the ship from the eastward, in an exhausted condition. About 150 came aboard, but many failed to reach her, and striking the sides of the ship dropped into the water. He picked up nine of the best coloured ones,and put them into a basket. Five were dead the next morning, and he said, that fully half of those aboard were dead the next morning. I am informed that there were quite 200 aboard one ship when she came into dock on the morning of the 3rd inst., and varying numbers on other ships. I presume most of the birds striking outward-bound ships would perish, as they appear to have been too exhausted the next morning to resume their journey.

„ 15—I saw the first Blackcap.

„ 17—Whitethroat was seen.

April 18—Lesser Whitethroat seen.

,, 23—Willow Wrens have been very numerous, but, they were late; the 23rd is my first record. I saw upwards of twenty on the 26th. Have not yet seen a Swallow or Martin. Wheatears, Wagtails and Pipits are now plentiful on the sand hills.

R. S. (Cleethorpes),

Book Notices and Reviews.

A Dictionary of English and Folk Names of British Birds: By H Kirke Swann. Demy 8vo., 10s. net. London: Witherby & Co., 326. High Holborn, W C.

A prospectus of this interesting Dictionary has been sent us. It gives the vernacular names ot British Birds and their origin and meaning; also the Folk-lore relating to indigenous species. It possesses the following special features:

(1) English Book-names, culled from past authors—1544 to date.
(2) Accepted names of the present day, with their history and first usage.
(3) Provincial, Local, and Dialect names, with their locality and meaning.
(4) Welsh, Gaelic, Cornish and Irish names.
(5) Folk-Lore, Weather-Lore, Legends, etc., connected with each bird.

It should prove of great interest to ornithologists and also to all keepers and admirers of our native avifauna.

Wild Life, An Illustrated Monthly. Edited by Douglas English. Dudley House, Southampton Street, London, W.C.

We cannot attempt a full review or description in this issue, the contents, notes and reproduced photographs (the illustrations are from *photos only*) are the work of the Zoological Photographic Club. To all interestep in wild creatures in their native haunts and natural surroundings, this monthly will strongly appeal, and no one who loves wild life can fail to be interested therein. We believe the annual subscription is 30s., and it is most excellent value. In the parts already issued birds have been to the fore, including some of our member's, (Mr. H. Willford), whose beautiful photos of bird life so frequently adorn our pages. Every phase of nature is represented, and the reproduced photos present them to us "at home" in the midst of their natural surroundings. More than this we cannot say. It should be upon the table of every public and private library, and adorn the bookshelves of every ornithologist and bird-lover who can afford it. We strongly commend it to our readers.

Among other recent issues, of interest to Bird-Lovers is:

Our Vanishing Wild Life, by William T Hornaday, Director of the New York Zoological Park, etc. Profusely Illustrated. New York; Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913,

Correspondence.

AN AVIARY CATASTROPHE.

Dear Sir—I feel sure that other aviculturists will sympathise in the loss of all my best birds that I sustained the night of April 5th. I have a large cage aviary divided into two parts, all facing south, and in the day the glass shutters are down and at night they are put up. It is an ideal aviary; the only things wanting are extra large wire runs at each end. As I have some birds that like warmth I tried to heat the building from the house by pipes and acetylene gas, but as I thought it unsafe and it gives off fumes, I did not try it one day, but took it out and went to the expense of a boiler and hot water apparatus. The entrance with double wire doors was at the back, and the heating boiler was surrounded by galvanized iron with a large air space between it and the aviary. It has been working satisfactorily since January. The whole building is tarred outside and creosoted inside. It was about 50 yards from the house in a line with my bedroom. I awoke about 4 a.m. with a light in my room, and my first thought was the house was on fire; then I looked and saw enormous flames coming out of the aviary. Even from that distance I could see it was hopeless. Nothing could be done to save the birds, and the only thing is I hope the fumes of creosote overtook them and stupefied them before being burnt. Rain prevented the surrounding bushes from catching fire. and luckily the wind blew the flames away from the house over the lawn. There is not a plank left standing. Amongst some of the birds lost were : a Rosy-breasted Grosbeak, 2 Argentine Thrushes (imported personally), 1 pair Orange-breasted Ground Thrushes,* pair Green Cardinals, Blue Budgerigar, Gouldians, pair Parrot Finches, Stonechat, Diamond Finches, Long-tailed Grassfinches, and others, in all about 40 birds, and some very tame. I cannot think how the aviary caught fire. It is very sad to think I put in this apparatus to make the birds happy and safe from fire, and now this has occurred. I have used a paraffin stove in a lower aviary with great fear some years past during intense frosts. I once tried a carbon stove in the aviary that was burnt, but that gave off fumes one day and killed 8 birds, and I luckily discovered it in time to save the lot.

M. C. HAWKE.

[The above makes very melancholy reading and Miss Hawke will have the sympathy of all aviculturists in her sad loss, and when this is a little less grievous we hope an even more perfect structure will arise on the ruins of the one burnt out.—Ed.]

* White-throated Ground Thrushes.—Ed.

Club Dinner.

The Club Dinner was held on the 17th April at the Inns of Court Hotel. There was a good number present and a most enjoyable evening was spent. A reception was held from 6-30 to 7 o'clock, and after the dinner, a conference was held, presided over by Rev. G. H. Raynor.

The Countess of Winchilsea
Major Perreau
Dr. Amsler
W. A. Bainbridge, Esq.
Miss L. Clare
Miss Harris
C. Harris, Esq.
J. S. Marriner, Esq.
R. Montague, Esq.
Wesley T. Page, Esq.
Otto Puck, Esq.
Rev. G. H. Raynor.
W. T. Rogers, Esq.
J. C Schläter, Esq.
Mrs. Schlüter.
Allen Silver, Esq.
Mrs. Stella Stoney.
Miss Stoney.
S. M. Townsend, Esq.
R. J. Watts, Esq.
Miss Sargeant
S. Williams, Esq.
A. Williams, Esq.
H. Willford, Esq.
and several friends.

Major Perreau presided at the dinner, supported by the Countess of Winchilsea, Wesley T. Page, Esq., and Rev. G. H. Raynor. The Chairman proposed the toast of "The King," which was duly honoured. Dr. Amsler proposed "Success to the F.B.C.," coupling with it the Hon. Editor (Mr. Wesley T. Page). He urged the necessity of each member doing what they could to further the interests of the club, and to endeavour to secure its future success by getting, as far as possible, new members; stating: "That if each member would "do their utmost in this way our numbers would be speedily "doubled."

" . . . . That all should support the Illustration Fund, so that "the number and quality of the illustrations in *Bird Notes* "might be fully maintained."

" . . . . That all should feel their responsibility to supply "copy unsolicited, that the task of the Hon. Editor might be "made as light as possible."

Mr. Wesley T. Page responded on behalf of the Club.

At the Conference, Rev. G. H. Raynor presiding, various topics of interest to aviculturists were discussed. The Chairman spoke of Parrots and their place in the ornithological world. H. Willford, Esq., showed some very fine photos of bird life. Major Perreau spoke on his recent importation of Indian birds. Mr. W. T. Rogers, spoke on "My Garden Aviary"; Mr. R. J. Watts on "Common Foreign Birds For Exhibition"; Mr. S. Williams on "Foreign Birds Kept in Cages"; Mr. S. M. Townsend placed on view the Provincial Silver Cup won for the most points secured during the year which goes to Mr. Howe. Wesley T. Page, Esq., brought the Conference to a close by a general resumé of the speeches of the evening. A vote of thanks to Mr. W. T. Rogers for the arrangements that had made it possible for a very happy evening to be spent by those members who were present, brought the proceedings to a close.

W. T. ROGERS,
(Secretary of the Social Committee of the Council).

Post Mortem Reports.

Tailor Bird (♂). (W. A. Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey). Cause of death, enteritis.

Budgerigar (♀). (Miss R. Alderson, Park Ho., Worksop, Notts.) Cause of death, pneumonia which was extensive

Bicheno Finch and Long-tailed Masked Grass Finch. (Thos. G. Nicholson, Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames.) Both died from pneumonia.

Long-Tailed Grassfinch. (Rev. G. H. Raynor, Maldon, Essex.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Roller (♀). Miss Maud Maxwell Jackson, Rutland Rd., Harrogate, Yorks.) This bird was apparently young. The cause of death was pneumonia.

Bengalese. (Geo. Scott Freeland, Quarry Hill. Tonbridge.) The intestines were inflamed.

Diamond Sparrow (♂). (P. H. Sellars, 81 Hyndland St., Partick.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Greyheaded Love Bird (♂). (Mrs. R. Hollins, Preston, Lancs.) Cause of death, inflammation of bowels.

Olive Finch (♂). (John S. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Answered by Post—Colonel Routh, Miss Johnson, T. W. Bull, Mrs. Easton Scott, E T. Lewis.

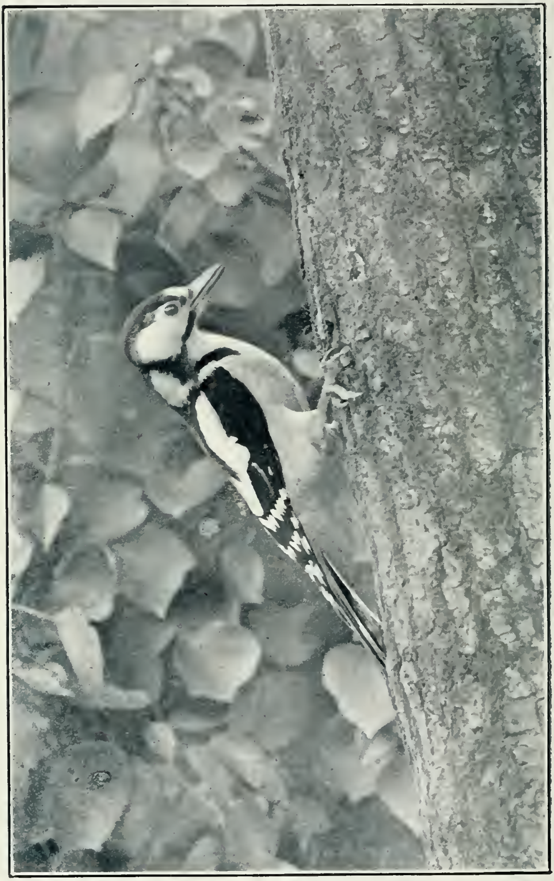


Photo from life by H. Willford

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

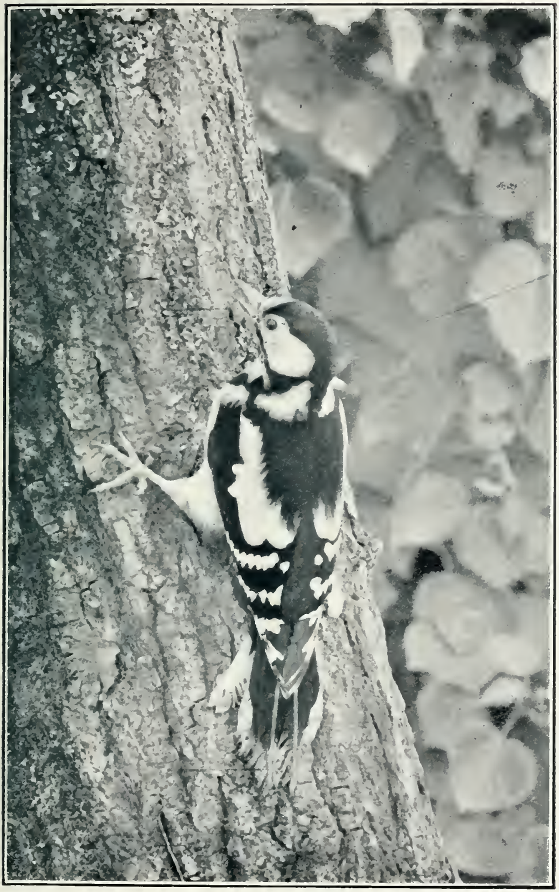


Photo from life by H. Willford.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Some Interesting Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc. Illustrated from Life by H. Willford.

Continued from page 139.

Great-spotted Woodpecker (*Déndrocopus major,* Linnæus) : In Mr. Willford's exceptionally fine photos, this bird is caught in two characteristic and typical poses, and the skill of the photographer is shown, in having secured so natural a result, as evidenced by the calm and unruffled expression of the bird figured, for the two photos are of the same bird—a female. The photos also indicate that in captivity (not a large aviary is represented), almost natural conditions may be supplied, or at any rate sufficient to enable them to take exercise in a natural manner.

The Great-spotted Woodpecker is not a bird that is frequently seen owing to its retiring demeanour, and usually it is only the careful and persistent observer that gets a glimpse at this species of the British Wood-hewers. At the same time it is not really rare or very uncommon in England, but is less common in Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. Recently, I have had the pleasure of seeing it in Surrey, Kent, and Sussex, though the glimpses were but passing ones, but sufficiently long for reliable identification; however, I have never had the pleasure of witnessing its skill as a wood-cutter, save in captivity. It usually favours the higher branches of lofty trees, and mostly scuttles away out of sight immediately it is cognisant of being observed, and the watcher must stand almost immovable if he is to get more than a passing glimpse of this shy species. Usually it is content with passing round to the other side of the branch or trunk, but if followed up flies off to some other tree. Its mode of progression is both diagonal and spiral.

The nesting hole is usually cut almost horizontally to the centre of the trunk or branch, and then turned downwards and enlarged to form a suitable domicile for the upbringing of a family. Occasionally a hole of the previous year is used, also at times a natural cavity in a dead branch is extended and enlarged. With this species several holes are by no means unfrequently excavated before they secure one to their entire satisfaction. The nest cavity is not lined, and the eggs are laid on the bare wood amid a few chips left behind when excavating. About the middle of May, or later, six or seven creamy-white eggs are deposited, barely one inch long by three-quarters of an inch through the thickest part. Both sexes incubate, and the incubation period is about fourteen days. It breeds freely in this country up to Yorkshire, but is rare as a breeding species farther north and in Scotland. It also breeds in Wales, but I cannot call to mind any instance of its doing so in Ireland.

It has a wide range and is found all over temperate Europe, extending over Siberia to Japan.

Description: *Adult male*: Above it is mostly black; forehead pale buffish-white; cheeks and ear-coverts white, the former tinged with buff; nape crimson; a black band extends from the gape under the eye to the back of the neck and also down the sides of the throat; a white patch just below the ear-coverts adorns each side of the neck; scapulars white; wing-feathers barred with white on the outer webs; tail-feathers black, with the outer ones edged and tipped with white; underparts dull white; vent pale crimson. Total length barely 9½ inches.

Adult female: Similar, but slightly smaller and has no crimson on the nape.

Young: Both sexes have the crown of the head red.

In Captivity: This species is not very interesting to my mind as a cage pet, but as an aviary bird it is most interesting, and would, I should say, ultimately breed if suitable accommodation were given it. On May 19th last, I had an opportunity of seeing Major Johnson's fine specimen "Jim" in his roomy aviary at Hove; he will not tolerate any other Woodpecker in his enclosure, but lives at peace with a unique series of British hard- and soft-bills and Waders. The aviary attendant informed me that the woodwork of the aviary was watched, but that the bird usually confined its attentions to the branches or trunk provided for the purpose. It certainly was most fascinating and interesting to see "Jim" roving about at will, with, but little evidence of his natural timidity and also clinging in typical style to ordinary or cork bark.

Dr. Gosse, of Beaulieu, Hants., has also kept this species; he too found it a most interesting aviary bird, and that if suitable thick branches were erected for it, the shell of the aviary was fairly safe.

At the same time, if a cage (aviary-cage) can be provided for it of sufficient bulk and height to accommodate a thick branch, set almost perpendicularly, the bird will soon make itself at home, but all said and done, it is seen to best advantage in the aviary.

Food : In a state of nature this consists of insects and their larvæ, supplemented in the autumn with mountain ash berries, nuts, acorns, etc. In captivity a course of insectile mixture, live insects (particularly beetles and their larvæ), nuts, sunflower seed, and in the autumn, berries, acorns, etc. It is good for all captive birds to be given some of their natural wild diet as opportunity offers.

The species just described is of great interest whether as an aviary bird or studied at home in its native haunts, and well repays the expenditure of time and patience in stalking and patient observation, but the observer must remain motionless, whether he is fortunate enough to find partial cover or must remain in the open, or the Great-spotted di appears at once.

(*To be continued*).

My Indian Consignment.

By Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 135).

Perhaps a brief notice of birds I brought home and which were not obtained near Bakloh would not come amiss here. These consist chiefly of birds caught in Darjeeling, where trapping is not encouraged, chiefly, because a good many birds from England and Kashmir were put down at some expense a good many years ago, and also, because the authorities rather naturally fear, that a collector loose on the district would levy such a vast toll on the bird life that the district would lose one of it's attractions. As a matter of fact the absence of bird life is remarked on by the local "guide." The author was not a bird man I fancy, as the birds are there all right, but are not in evidence much, as the bulk of them prefer the jungle and belong to retiring species. Even the heavy persecution they undergo from the hands of the "garden" coolies, who lime them for food, has little effect, I believe, on the numbers of the birds of the species which are so caught. There may be some effect indirectly on the carnivorous birds and animals. However that may be, I was restricted to one tea garden and I consider myself lucky to have had trapping rights of that, especially as it ranged from 2,000 feet up to nearly 6,000 and contained a good deal of forest. Still, I should have liked to try a bit higher up as well, short as my time was.

One ought to get quite a nice collection of Laughing-Thrushes. Even the sober coloured ones are charming aviary birds, but, alas, few are safe with smaller fry, hence they are not good birds to bring home from a selling point of view. Also they are not nice birds on the journey, not over-clean and given to sudden uncalled for panics, especially at night. Except perhaps Sibias, I know of no birds more given to stripping themselves or each other, and, thus they arrive in a condition which spoils the look of a whole consignment, though in reality they may be far fitter than their better feathered fellow captives. My first experience of them on a voyage made me vow to leave them alone in future, this vow I have already broken and shall probably do so again.

THE RUFOUS-NECKED LAUGHING-THRUSH (*Dryonastes ruficollis*) reminds me rather of a miniature Jackdaw, though the birds are not really at all alike except in being perky. Under the tail and sides of the head bright chestnut; top of head grey; upper breast and tail and remainder of head black: upper plumage and rest of lower plumage olive brown. Bill and legs black. Iris red. Length about 10 inches; tail 4·5 Found in the Eastern Himalayas, probably not above 4,000 feet (Oates). Jerdon states that it is kept by the natives as a pet on account of its musical notes. I never saw it wild, but the men who brought them in seemed very pleased with their captures. I did no trapping myself below 4,000 feet, and fancy these were caught at below 3,000. Ten were brought in and I got eight home, having given away two in Calcutta. They did very well in an out-door aviary in Bakloh in the winter on bread and milk and leavings of insectile food, and fruit; lettuce were also freely taken by these and other Laughing-Thrushes. Though they are not so handsome as some of the species with more variegated plumage, I think, this is my favourite Laughing-Thrush.

THE GREY-SIDED LAUGHING-THRUSH (*D. caerulatus*) comes from Nepal and Sikkim. One only was brought in, from about 3,000 feet, I never saw it wild. At first glance it looks much like a small White-breasted, a comparatively well-known bird in England. General colour rufous brown with a white shirt front and some black about the face. Length about 11 inches. My bird was easily induced, by the poorest imitations, to indulge in its wild call. A friend on board did the imitation almost too well. It is decidedly not safe in a confined space even with smaller relatives.

THE BLACK-GORGETED LAUGHING-THRUSH (*Garrulax pectoralis*) is very similar to the well-known Chinese Spectacled Jay-Thrush but is a good deal bigger and lacks the white ring round the eye. On the other hand, it is more variegated and has a black gorget. Length about 13 inches. The only two I got were brought in from about 3,000 feet. They looked like nesting in my Bakloh aviary in February in spite of there being little inducement to do so, but I hear that they have had to be separated into different cages at the Zoo where they have been. They shortly go to our member, Mr. Sich, in whose spacious aviary I hope the course of true love will run smoothly. They were by no means shy in the aviary, but, even for Laughing-Thrushes, they are perfect beasts in a cage.

THE WESTERN YELLOW-WINGED LAUGHING-THRUSH (*Trochalopterum nigrimentum*) is quite the most handsome Laughing-Thrush I have seen. I failed to get or see the still more handsome Crimson-winged. These were the common ones about Darjeeling, but I only got three, all by driving into a line of flue nets, they were wonderfully quick at slipping under the nets; one really ought to have set the nets right on the ground for them but that means a great deal of clearing. The third died because he was the third, and the pair (now in the possession of our member, Lord Poltimore) objected to his presence in the same cage. As a rule this class of bird do well enough together, though the pairs do keep together in the aviary. In the wild state a flock runs from a dozen to twenty birds, but I fancy that they keep to their pairs. It is a very hard bird to describe briefly. Most of the feathers of upper parts and breast have black centres of varying sizes and shapes on a background varying from chestnut to rufous, and from pinkish to grey. The wings and tail contain slaty blue with a liberal display of bright golden yellow. A very desirable bird. Length about 10 inches.

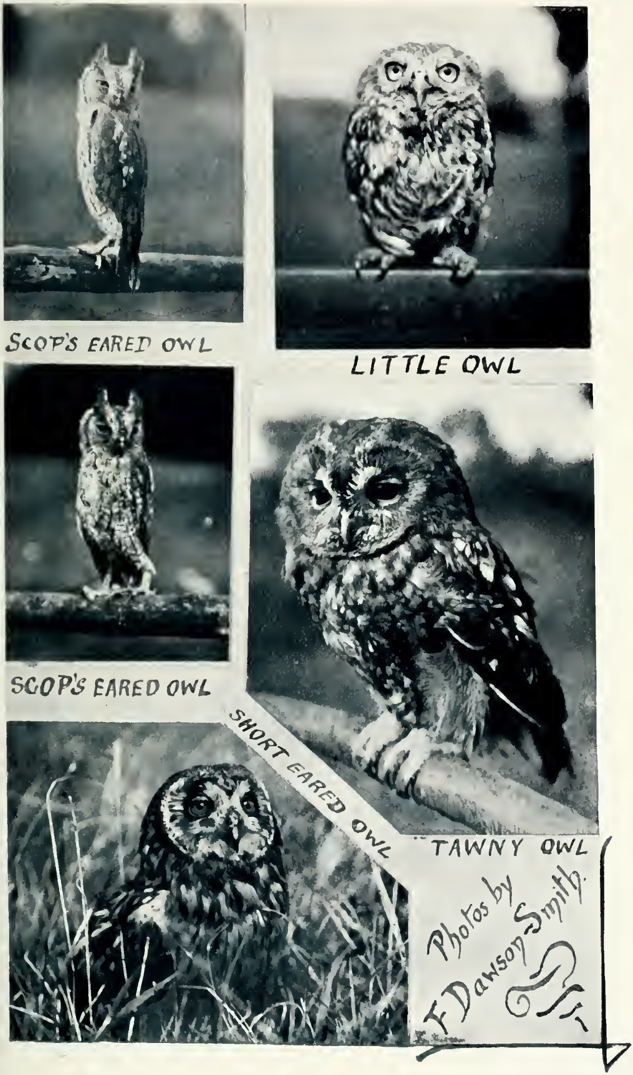
All the four above-mentioned are, I believe, new to English aviculture, as is also the charming and beautiful Eastern Variegated Laughing-Thrush (*T. variegatum*), a pair of which I caught in Bakloh and brought home; these are now in the possession of our member Mr. Shore-Baily. I also brought home a pair of the Himalayan Streaked Laughing-Thrush (*T. lineatum*), and I rather regret having left a pair of the well-known Rufous-chinned in Lahore.

To be continued.

British Owls.

By Frank Dawson-Smith.

The majority of people who go in for aviculture give the Owl family "a miss in baulk," owing to the prevalent idea that these birds are troublesome, uninteresting, and difficult to cater for. My own personal experience, however, is strongly opposed to these ideas. In my opinion an Owl makes a nice pet—quaint and interesting, and, provided one lives in the country, easy to keep. For obvious reasons it would be unwise to attempt keeping an Owl in a town; for one reason, one's neighbours might strenuously object to the serenade they perform at times! It may interest some *Bird Notes* readers to know my experiences in keeping Owls of different species. This article, being on the subject of British Owls,



SCOP'S EARED OWL

LITTLE OWL

SCOP'S EARED OWL

SHORT EARED OWL

TAWNY OWL

Photos by F. Dawson Smith.

Some British Owls.

I will confine my remarks to these, although I have kept others equally interesting.

No Owl is suited for a cage. An aviary is a *sine qua non*, and the larger the better. They are sociable creatures, generally speaking. I have kept Tawny, Barn, Little, Long-eared, and Short-eared Owls in one aviary, and they have lived quite amicably.

The Eagle Owl (*Bubo ignavus*, Forster), the largest of the family, is a powerful bird. In the Hartz Mountains these birds are by no means rare and are frequently employed by gamekeepers and bird catchers to attract other species. When caught young, they soon become tame and affectionate. One of mine was very fond of having his head scratched, blinking with pleasure in an absurd way, while the process continued. Eagle Owls will breed in captivity, but I cannot state this from personal experience as I did not have a pair. This bird never formed such an attraction for small birds as the Little Owls, who were always being mobbed, chiefly by Swallows and Missel Thrushes.

The Little Owl (*Athene noctua*, Scopoli), was formerly, extremely rare in England, but owing to many importations, is now a common variety in North Bucks, and Northants districts. You will meet them at every turn if you walk across the fields. They hunt in the day time as well as at night and are more destructive to bird life than any other Owl. Indeed, I will go as far as to say that all English Owls are *useful*, with the one exception—the Little Owl, who is rapidly becoming a pest in its wild state. I find their nests, usually in the hole of an oak tree, containing the usual white eggs. It is the fiercest of all for its size, and practically untameable. I have had them before they were fully fledged and brought them up by hand, but they always remain wild. It is only fair to add that I have heard of some which showed affection to their keepers, but my own experience was contrary. I consider the Little Owl quite the "funny man" in the aviary; his grotesque "jack-in-the-box" movements compel laughter from anyone seeing him for the first time.

Quite different is the Tawny Owl (*Syrnium aluco*, Linnaeus), perhaps the best known species, which is easily tamed when obtained from the nest. It is a common bird in in most districts, and the "Hoo-hoo" in woods at night must be a familiar sound to most people. "Making night hideous" is an expression I have sometimes heard in reference to their long-drawn wailing note, but, personally, I like to hear them, which is, perhaps, fortunate, as my tame birds attract their wild kind and practice vocal duets about a dozen yards from my bedroom window. A pair of Tawny Owls in my aviary, nest regularly every year. The female makes a most devoted mother, yet never loses her excessive tameness. As a rule, Owls defend their young with great courage, and strongly resent anybody approaching the nest, but my bird "Fluff" is ridiculously tame and loving. The moment she hears my voice, she calls me in a soft prolonged trill; if I fail to go in response, she positively wails like a child, and will not be pacified until I have comforted her by calling her all the endearing names I can think of, and stroking and scratching her head. To show how extremely gentle she is, I may add that she will let me take her eggs up and look at them while she "trills" happily to me. After this you will not be surprised to hear that Fluff is very much my favourite among my Owls. I am fond of them all, but Fluff is *facile princeps*. The Tawny is not a particularly sleepy Owl. Mine always seem fairly alert in the day-time, and will run up to me to get a mouse or sparrow when I offer these delicacies. This species is very fond of bathing in contradistinction to the Little Owl which is not fond of water.

One of the sleepiest is the Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*, Linnaeus), who scarcely opens his eyes in the day-time, much less eats: Consequently they are not so attractive in confinement as the Tawny species, although extremely quaint. The appearance of a Barn Owl is more striking than any other I know of. The majority of those I have kept have been tame and quite gentle, but not very sociable with their keeper. If disturbed during the day they reel backwards and forwards on their perches in a most curious way, reminding one forcibly of the movements of an intoxicated man. Another habit of a rather wild Barn Owl I had, was to "play 'possum." If I took him in my hand and put him back afterwards, on the aviary floor, he would lie on his side motionless with eyes closed, nor would he move from this position until he was firmly convinced I had gone. It is interesting to see a Barn Owl with a dead rat or mouse. The mouse, if small, is swallowed whole, but a rat is skinned first. Most Owls prefer mice to anything else, but the Little Owl much prefers Sparrows and other small birds.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus,* Linnæus) also prefers birds to mice. This is a handsome fellow and becomes very tame. It is, by no means, as playful as the Barn and Tawny Owls, but resembles the Tawny in being fond of bathing. All my Long-eared Owls go boldly into a large shallow bath and flap and splash until they are soaked, following which they sit on the perches to dry and preen themselves. Young Long-eared Owls are sometimes mistaken for Short-eared, but it is difficult to understand why, for they are totally different.

The Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus,* Pallas) is a much lighter coloured bird than the Long-eared, and far more strongly built. 'And the Short-eared does not always agree with his Long-eared compatriot as I have discovered to my cost, one of the former killing and eating a Long-ear, a cannabalistic act, for which there was no excuse, seeing that there was plenty of food in the aviary. The Short-eared Owls agree well with the Tawny Owls, into whose aviary I have removed them. They feed in the day as well as at night, and are fondest of mice as a staple article of diet. I have only once seen this bird in a wild state, and that one was flushed from some stubble in broad daylight. In some districts they are known as Hawk-owls, owing to their day-time hunting.

Another interesting member of the Owl family is the Scops-eared (*Scops giu,* Scopoli) This is an extremely prettily marked Horned Owl, common on the continent, but rarely seen in England. They soon get very tame, and make delightful pets, especially for those who have not much room to spare. Mine were all caught when adult, but were quite tame in a fortnight. Their behaviour before settling down was very comical. On my approaching their home, they would crouch down on the perch, and ruffle out their feathers until they were twice their normal size, and snap their beaks ferociously. Most owls when frightened or angry will snap their beaks—a short, sharp, vicious snap—they all do it, from the Great Eagle Owl down to its small relative, the Scops. A Scops resembles an Eagle-owl in everything but size. Mine are fond of beetles in addition to birds and mice, and they also take full advantage of their bathing tank. Certain species bathe, but others never appear to touch water. Among the former are the Eagle, Tawny, Long-eared, and Scops Owls, while the Little, the Barn, the Short-eared and Tengmalm's Owls are those that eschew water.

The last named, Tengmalm's (*Nyctala tengmalmi*, Gmelin) is a very rare visitor to England. My specimen—I have only one—came from Austria, and is the most attractive Owl I have kept. They are described, by some people, as being "like a Little Owl," but on looking at a specimen in an aviary there could be no confusion. The Little Owl has a sinister expression, with a hard fixed stare, but the Tengmalm's positively radiates benignity and virtue!

Owls are not at all difficult to cater for. I give them "fur and feather" when obtainable and fill up the intermediate time with any kind of *raw* lean meat. A certain amount of "fur and feather" is necessary to their well-being; mice, small rats, and birds. "Fluff" is very partial to sheep's paunch, and fleshy bits of fresh fish.

I fear I have encroached too much already on the space available in *Bird Notes,* otherwise I could enlarge a good deal on the subject of Owls. Still, I think I have said enough to prove that Owls are extremely interesting and beautiful birds, well worth the consideration and attention of intending aviculturists.

Bird Notes from Trieste to Bombay.

By Hugh Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

As there are doubtless many of our members who have had occasion to make a long sea-voyage, it has occurred to me that they might find some interest in an account of the birds noted in a recent trip from Europe to India; since from it some idea may be gained of the material which passes under the observation of the traveller and helps to vary the monotony of the long days on board. Also, since I know from personal

Photos
by
F Dawson
Smith

experience how difficult it is to identify the birds seen on one's first voyage—many of them, though extremely common, being then met with for the first time. I have inserted short descriptions of the birds *as they appear through field glasses to the man on deck.*

I sailed in the Austrian Lloyd s.s. "Semiramis," from Trieste on March 16th of this year and landed at Bombay on March 31st; the result of my daily observations is as follows:

March 16th. Went on board the "Semiramis" which sailed about 4 p.m. Two species of Gull were extremely numerous in the harbour and followed us for a time after we had started; these were *Larus ridibundus*—the Black-headed Gull, the majority of which were already in full breeding plumage, and *Larus cachinnans*—the Yellow-legged Herring-Gull, to be distinguished from the English bird, *Larus argentatus,* by the colour of its feet, which are yellow. Towards dusk two distant parties of birds were seen flying low over the sea; they were probably *Phalacrocorax carbo*—the Common Cormorant.

March 17th. (Adriatic Sea). A calm day with but little land in sight. No birds seen except *Larus cachinnans* which followed in our wake, often uttering their harsh clucking call—somewhat reminiscent of an exaggerated hen.

March 18th. Passed about breakfast time between the mainland of Greece and the islands of Cephalonia and Zanthe. *Larus cachinnans* still continues to follow the ship in numbers. Some birds seen in the distance which appeared to be Shearwaters. Also one or two specimens noted of a bird that was probably *Stercorarius crepidatus,* Richardson's Skua; these were flying along close to the sea, going straight and not wheeling about like the Shearwaters. One turned suddenly and joined the Herring Gulls in the wake, disputing with them for fragments of food, which it took from the surface of the water in the same manner as the Gulls; but, it did not come close enough to the stern to admit of a satisfactory identification.

March 19th. No land in sight all day but Crete was passed in the early morning. A few *Larus cachinnans* still about but nothing like the number when we were in sight of land. A dark Shearwater with white underparts was noted in small parties in the morning, but fewer were seen as the day wore on—these were most probably either *Puffinus kuhli,* the Mediterranean Shearwater or *Puffinis yelkouanus*—the Levantine Shearwater.

March 20th. This morning the Herring Gulls have been replaced by *Larus fuscus*—the Lesser Black-backed Gull, only two of the Herring Gulls being noted. Both species are very similar, the grey back and wings of the Herring Gull becoming dark sooty in the Black-back. About midday we reached Port Said; the harbour swarms with *Larus ridibundus* the Black-headed Gull, and with them are a few *L. cachinnans* and *fuscus.* We left Port Said about 6 p.m. so consequently the greater part of the canal—where one sees so many birds as a rule—was traversed by night.

March 21st. Passed through the Bitter Lakes about 5—6 a.m., where *Larus ridibundus* was very numerous. Very few specimens had fully assumed the breeding plumage. The majority being either immature birds or birds that had only partially donned their breeding attire. Entering the narrow canal again that leads from the Bitter Lakes to Suez we noted the following birds: two *Ceryle rudis,* Pied Kingfisher, many Swallows (apparently *Hirundo rustica),* several large Crows or Ravens, one *Larus cachinnans, Larus ridibundus,* and several Wagtails (all of the *Motacilla alba* type), and also noted a flight of six Cormorants, *Phalacrocorax alba,* some of which were in full breeding plumage. When we reached Suez I saw three Herons, *Ardea cinerea,* fishing in some shallows, and a Cormorant sitting on a beacon with his wings outstretched to catch the sun.

For a time the ship lay at anchor in the roads off Port Tewfik, where great numbers of Gulls surrounded the ship, flying round close or settling in flocks on the water. The various buoys also formed favourite resting places. The majority were *Larus ridibundus* but *L. cachinnans* and *L. fuscus* were numerous also. While we were here I saw a very hawk-like bird flying swiftly across the water, occasionally having skirmishes with the Gulls—this turned out to be Richardson's Skua, *Stercorarius crepidatus.*

As we steamed out of the roads two big flights of Plover or Waders flew swiftly across the bay in front of us, but the distance was too great to allow of the species being identified.

For the rest of the day as we went along the Gulf of Suez, *Larus ridibundus* continued abundant, and *Larus affinis* was fairly common. Only a stray *L. cachinnans* or two were noted. Port Tewfik was still in sight when I noted the first Sooty Gull, *Larus hemprichi*, but I did not see another until we reached Aden. Until dark a pair of Richardson's Skuas followed in our wake with the Gulls. They may be described roughly as dark blackish brown with a white collar and underparts; some white also at the base of the wing quills; the white of the breast broken by a partial dark gorget. The tail full and wedge-shaped with the two central feathers fronted and elongate. They were not on good terms with the Gulls, chasing them and being chased.

March 22nd. (In the Red Sea). No land sighted all day. No Gulls seen except a few *Larus affinis*. A small bird that looked like a Pipit came on to the ship, but I only caught a glimpse of it as it was leaving: another small bird of a yellowish colour, probably a Bunting, also seen flying near the ship. A swallow turned up and remained for some time with the ship, hawking round and about. About sunset a small Kestrel arrived and settled on the mast where after doing its plumage it prepared to roost. Finally just as it was getting dusk I caught a glimpse of a small Swallow or Martin flying low over the waves. After dinner an attempt to catch the Kestrel was made but unsuccessfully, the bird taking alarm and flying round about the ship for a long time in the moonlight, looking like an enormous bat.

March 23rd. (Red Sea). No land in sight all day. I awoke to hear that the Kestrel had been caught and put into a Canary Cage, where I took a detailed description of it. Roughly speaking, the bird was a small pale washed-out looking edition of the Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* in immature plumage with the upper tail coverts of a delicate French grey dully barred. At present I cannot gain access to books and skins to determine the species accurately from my description, but I think it was the Lesser Kestrel, *Falco cenchris*—an identification supported by the colour of its claws, which were flesh colour not black.

This proved to be another migration day and the following birds visited the ship. A pair of Thick-knee Plovers—

probably *Œdicnemus scolopax*—circled once or twice as if desirous of settling on the ship, and then flew off astern. A Wheatear came aboard and rested for a time. It was of the *Saxicola œnanthe* type. Then a small bird—not unlike a Reed-bunting—was seen flying along. Next came two Harriers, followed by a third, passing from the African to the Arabian coast

No Gulls were following the ship, but a few Lesser Black-backs were seen. In the evening the first Boobies *Sula leucogaster* were seen, and two white Gannet—but the latter were too far off for identification. A stray *Larus hemprichi* or two.

March 24th. (The Red Sea). No land in sight until about 10 a.m., but the Lesser Black-backed Gulls were again following the ship, as well as Sooty Gulls and Boobies. The Boobies were very numerous, flying over the sea singly and in parties: in the distance they have a spidery appearance owing to everything being pointed—bill, wings, and tail. Many came close up to the stern and there both took food from the surface of the water and plunged for it. They may be roughly described as chocolate-brown birds with the wing lining and lower parts from breast white. The bill and naked facial skin being either greenish white or very pale flesh colour.

About 10 a.m. we passed a large rocky island, and then, for a time the number of Gulls and Gannets decreased until noon, when they returned in force again while the ship was passing "the twelve apostles." A white Gannet with black quills seen—*Sula cyanops*? About 6 p.m. we passed between a lighthouse rock and a large island, called, I believe, Sabel Zukker.

March 25th. Reached Aden about 11 a.m. Before we rounded the corner we had only been followed by a few immature *Larus affinis,* but the harbour was full of Gulls. These were all either *Larus affinis* or *Larus hemprichi*. The Sooty Gull is very strictly protected in Aden harbour and is consequently very numerous and fearless. This Gull is dusky brown except for the breast, underparts, tail, and rump, which are white; the wing is also edged with white owing to the quills being tipped with that colour. In breeding plumage

Hemprich's Gull (*Larus hemprichi*).

—already assumed by many of the birds in Aden harbour—the head becomes a darker chocolate brown and there is a white collar. They flew so close to the ship's rail while we were at anchor that I tried to photograph them but the results are not worth reproduction. Many Kites, *Milvus ægypticus,* come out from the shore and mingle with the gulls, and on a former voyage I rescued one that had fallen into the sea. Several Terns came to the ship attracted by the swarms of small fish that always collect round the hull—they were all of one species but not in full plumage and I failed to identify the species. It was probably the smaller Crested Tern *Sterna media.* Only a single Booby seen to-day and that in the harbour.

March 26th. (Arabian Sea); no land in sight all day. I only saw one bird and that a great distance off—it was apparently a White Ganret. A "Seagull" was reported to me, but I did not see it.

March 27th. (Arabian Sea). No land seen. About breakfast time several White Tropic-birds *Phaëthon flavirostris* appeared, flying rapidly behind and beside the ship. They are curious Tern-like birds with the two middle feathers elongate and pointed: white all over except for a black mark running from the eye round the nape, and some black on the wings: the bill is yellow and the feet black. I did not see them settle or catch anything. The flight resembled that of a Sandgrouse. However, they soon left and only an odd one or two were seen during the rest of the day.

A White Gannet with black wing quills and tail came near enough for me to note that the facial skin was blackish, thus identifying it as *Sula cyanops* the Masked Booby. During the afternoon and evening many Shearwaters were to be seen skimming low over the water in all directions. They did not come near enough for me to attempt an identification, but the probability is that they were the Persian Shearwater, *Puffinis persicus.*

March 28th. No birds, no ships, no land!

March 29th. Only three birds seen—all White Gannets, one in immature plumage, *Sula cyanops.*

March 30th. No birds seen during the morning except a small Plover, which visited the ship once or twice. It flew so swiftly that I could not get the glasses on to it to recognise even the genus. We arrived at Bombay in the afternoon, the Customs officers coming on board about 3 p.m. but the Gulls did not come out far to meet us, the first—an immature *Larus affinis*—being seen only at 1-30 p.m. They did not become numerous till we reached the Pilot brig outside the harbour.

The gulls in the harbour were of two species, the commonest being *Larus brunneicephalus*, the Brown-headed Gull. The other species was the Dark-backed Herring Gull, *Larus affinis*.

I must here note that *Larus fuscus* and *Larus affinis* are in reality two races of one species, only to be determined with certainty on a close examination. Hence my identification of the Lesser Black-backed Gulls seen on various occasions may not always have been correct, but for the purposes of this account I have let them stand.

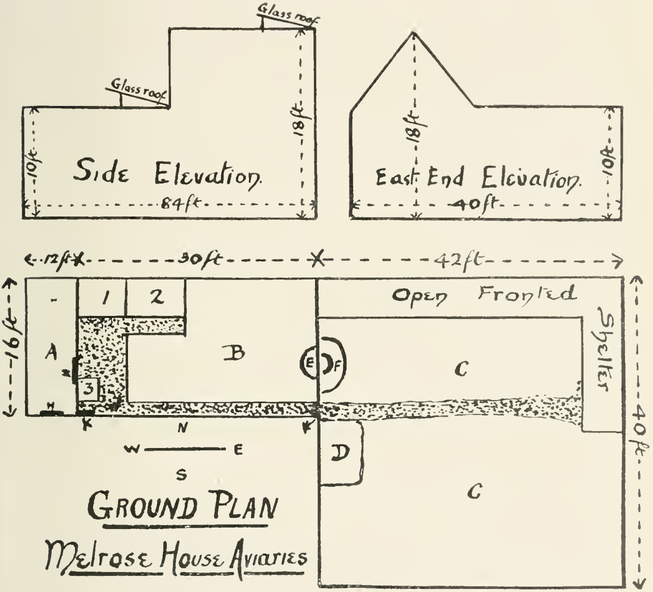
Visits To Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

In commencing another series of visits to members' aviaries and birdrooms, I am simply responding to a general call, and I venture to hope that other members, after a visit to a fellow-member's aviaries, will send an article for publication in the club journal. I have been privileged to make several visits already, but I am waiting for photos and plans to illustrate my descriptions; thus I am commencing with a short description of Major F. Johnson's Aviaries at Hove; here I am to have the pleasure of a second visit and then hope to amplify these present notes and make them worthy the unique series of British species I am seeking to describe.

Major Johnson's Aviaries: My visit was unannounced and I did not find Major Johnson at home. On a future occasion I hope to include many episodes of the birds I saw. I really am at a loss how to begin, for the rapid passing before one's vision of one dainty species after another was almost bewildering, and most certainly entrancing. And I really must leave any real attempt at describing the aviaries to a future occasion, merely in the present attempting to convey a general idea of them—the heated winter aviary I did not see.

THE AVIARIES: The area covered is large, the main aviary some 40ft. square by about 15 to 16 feet high. The main portion forms one huge aviary, with numerous internal standards supporting the roof; these standards being covered with cork and bark, and having ivy and other creepers.


Glass roof
Glass roof
10ft
18ft
Side Elevation
84ft
18ft
East End Elevation
10ft
40ft
12ft
30ft
42ft
16ft
40ft
1
2
3
A
B
E
F
C
C
D
H
H
K
K
N
W
E
S
Open Fronted
Shelter
GROUND PLAN
Melrose House Aviaries

A.—Stable filled with trees, with windows at H.H.

B.—Enclosure for special birds, which must be kept separate, with fountain at E.

C.—Main aviary, with fountain and pond at F, turfed and planted with evergreens and various creepers up internal standards.

D.—Rustic Arbour in use as observation post.

K.K.—Doors for entrance and to shut off main aviary from service passage J.

Dotted areas represent gravel service passage and paths.

1. 2. 3.—Compartment enclosures for new arrivals.

The East End is wood and glass.

Except where otherwise designated the structure is of wire netting stretched on stout wood framing.

The ground area of this aviary consists of turf, gravel paths, a small pond, and a number of evergreen bushes. The whole effect is very pleasing, especially when viewed from the rustic arbour, which forms Major Johnson's observation post. The other portion is divided off into three smaller enclosures, either for pugnacious species, new arrivals, or for species which are too timid for the general crowd; and here for the present I must leave my description of the aviaries, simply remarking that the well-kept turf and paths formed a fitting setting for a unique series of our British birds.

THE BIRDS: Here again, my remarks can only be general and but little more than a list. Since my visit I have had a most interesting letter from Major Johnson, in which he says, as might be expected his breeding results are small, though many attempts are made. Speaking of Waders, he says: "I am fond of Waders, which do well and give little "or no trouble, and I have just obtained a nice pair of Oyster-"Catchers (*Hematopus ostralegus*). Once I possessed the "Curlew Sandpiper (*Tringa subarquata*), and the Sanderling "(*Calidris arenaria*), but they were killed by an infernal "Egyptian Rail and I do not seem able to replace them. Con-"sidering the great admixture of birds, you would be surprised "how few tragedies there are—one day a cock Corn Bunting "ran amok and killed my pet Scarlet Grosbeak (*Pyrrhula* "*erythrina*), also my Black-headed Bunting (*Euspiza melano-*"*cephala*); the Corn Bunting has no longer a place in the "aviary."

"'Jim' the old Great-Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus* "*major*) will not tolerate any other Woodpecker near him, and "my Common Wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*) killed nine or "ten other Wrens during the last year, being evidently of the "opinion that there is only room for *one Wren* in that aviary. "Nightingales occasionally kill each other, but on the whole "get on well together."

I have taken the liberty of including the above as it conveys a general idea of the demeanour of the birds thus associated together—the actual losses from malicious fighting being very small, as I gathered from the aviary attendant, while it was of great interest to see the number of species that came down to the close-clipped grass and picked out the mealworms, amiably competing for same as they were scattered by the attendant; needless to say, that with such an array of soft-bills, mealworms were carried in a pail!

By the aid of mealworms the bulk of the birds were made to parade before Dr. Thwaites and myself as we sat in the observation summer-house—here I had better give a list of the species I observed, and then make a few remarks afterwards.

FLYCATCHERS : Spotted (*Musicapa grisola*) and Pied (*M. atricapilla*).

THRUSHES, ETC. Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), Fieldfare (*T. pilaris*). Blackbird (*Merula merula*) and Ring Ouzel (*M. torquatus*).

WARBLERS, ACCENTORS, CHATS, ETC: Alpine Accentor (*Accentor collaris*), Hedge Sparrow (*A. modularis*), Nightingale (*Daulias luscinia*), Garden Warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*). Greater Whitethroat *S. cinerea*) Lesser Whitethroat (*S. curruca*), Blackcap (*S. atricapilla*), Stonechat (*Pratincola rubicola*), Whinchat (*P. rubetra*). Wheatear (*Saxicola œnanthe*). Redstart (*Ruticilla phoenicurus* , Black Redstart (*R. titys*), Bluethroat (*Cyanecula suecia*). Redbreast (*Erithacus rubecula*), Gold-crested Wren (*Regulus cristatus*), Chiff-Chaff (*Phylloscopus rufus*).

TITS : Bearded (*Panurus biarmicus*), Long-tailed (*Acredula caudata*). Great (*Parus major*), Cole (*P. ater*). Marsh (*P. palustris*), and Blue (*P. caeruleus*).

ETCETRAS : Nuthatch (*Sitta caesia*) Wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*), Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*) Swallow, (*Hirundo rustica*), Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*).

WAGTAILS : Pied (*Motacilla lugubris*), White (*M alba*), Grey (*M. melanope*), and Yellow (*M. raii*).

PIPITS : Tree (*Anthus trivialis*), Meadow (*A. pratensis*), and Rock (*A. obscurus*).

LARKS : Shore (*Otocorys alpestris*) Sky (*Alauda arvensis*) and Wood (*A. arborea*)

FINCHES : Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*), Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes vulgaris*), Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*), Siskin (*C. spinus*), Serin (*Serinus hortulanus*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Tree Sparrow (*P. montanus*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), Brambling (*F. montifringilla*), Linnet (*Linota cannabina*), Mealy Redpoll (*L. linaria*), Lesser Redpoll (*L. rufescens*), Twite (*L. flavirostris*). Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europaea*), and Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostris*).

BUNTINGS : Corn (*Emberiza miliari*), Yellow (*E. citrinella*), Cirl (*E. cirlus*), Ortolan (*E. hortulana*), Meadow (*E. cioides*). Reed (*E. schoeniclus*), Lapland (*E. lapponicus*), and Snow (*Plectrophenax nivalis*),

STARLINGS : Common (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Rose-coloured Pastor (*Pastor, roseus*).

WOODPECKERS : Green (*Gecinus viridis*) and Great-Spotted (*Dendrocopus major*).

I noticed the Common Quail (*Coturnix comminis*), Land-Rail (*Crex pratensis*), Moor-Hen (*Gallinula chloropus*), while among a number of Waders etc, I marked the following: Dotterel (*Eudromias morinellus*), Ringed

Plover (*Ægialitis hiaticula*) Golden Plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*), Grey Plover (*Squatarola helvetica*), Green Plover (*Vanellus vulgaris*), Dunlin (*Tringa alpina*), Knot (*T. canutus*), Sanderling (*Callidris arenaria*), Sandpiper (*Totanus hypoleucus*), Redshank (*T. calidris*), Ruff (*Machetes pugnax*), Avocets (*Recurvirosta avocetta*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa belgica*) and Bar-tailed Godwit (*L. lapponica*).

All the foregoing with some half-dozen exceptions were disporting themselves in the large section of the aviary, and if the mixture was astounding, it was equally fascinating.—The Common Wren, Redbreast, Wheatear, Redstart, Nightingales, Blackcap, Stone- and Whin-chat, mingled with the smaller Waders on the short grass in friendly competition, each seeking to obtain their full share of mealworms—from the rustic arbour look-out the scene was too charming for words, the distinctive characteristics and deportment of the respective species was most interesting thus brought into comparison, but I must leave it for some other occasion to deal more fully with.

Associated with the above British birds were some few foreign species, I noted the following: Gouldian, Long-tail, Ruficauda, and Diamond Grassfinches, Mannikins, Waxbills, and Californian Quail; while the impudent little Zebra Finch passed almost under our nose to a typical nest woven in the creeper climbing over our rustic look-out post.

Besides the Zebra Finches, Goldfinches were also nesting, and Nuthatches, Ring Ouzels and Blackbirds gave evidence of being occupied with thoughts of reproducing their kind—the attendant named other species as having nests, but I made only mental notes, and I cannot now call to mind the species.

I find I have said nothing about the common but altogether charming Budgerigar, which co-mingles with the rest in quite a charming manner, his garment of shining green, forming quite a bright spot, among the somewhat dull hues of our British species—incidentally our green friends are responsible for the cut-up appearance of some of the shrubs and creepers.

I am greatly tempted to linger and rhapsodize about the Stone-chat and Whin-chat, two of our most charming British species, charming because of their beauty, and confiding and fearless demeanour, but for the present must close by congratulating Major Johnson on his unique series of British species and their condition, for there did not appear to be a sorry-looking, ailing, or discontented individual among them.

DR. THWAITES' AVIARIES: My visit to Brighton was really a call upon Dr. Thwaites, and he kindly motored me over to Major Johnson's, at Hove. Dr. Thwaites' residence is a corner house, with practically no back premises, where it is a case of making the most of very limited space, and right well he has succeeded. His aviary consists of the back area and a small space above it, some 30 x 16 feet, with a varying height of from 6 to 12 feet; around the back wall and one end are arranged shelters and two or three smaller enclosures for single pairs of birds. Dr. Thwaites has certainly made the most of his space; and there are some annual breeding results. In the general aviary and separate flights are pairs of Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*), Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*), Nonpareil Buntings (*C. ciris*), Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*), White-throated Sparrow (*Spermophila albigularis*), Green Avadavats (*Stictospiza formosa*), Common Waxbills (*Estrilda cinerea*), White Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora*, var., *alba*), Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), Goldfinches (*Carduelis elegans*) and Meadow Pipits (*Anthus pratensis*), in all 15 pairs and some odd birds.

A pair of Shamahs (*Cittocincla macrura*), in perfect feather occupy a small enclosure 16 x 4 ft., in which it is hoped they may reproduce their kind during the season.

The day of my visit was certainly cool and showery, and the birds, as is usual, looking their worst, but they all appeared to be a really fit and contented series.

As regards indications of what results there may be, I will use Dr. Thwaites' own words—the Zebra Finches, Java Sparrows, and Goldfinches are incubating, but no young hatched up to the present so far as he is aware. The Diamond Doves have one youngster on the wing, and are again incubating. The Cuban Finches and Green Avadavats are at present only playing at nesting.

In this aviary Pea Doves (*Zenaida amabilis*) nested and fully reared three young birds last season, besides other small finches, and Dr. Thwaites' aviary is certainly an object lesson, that "where there's a will there's a way," and anyone may have an aviary no matter how circumscribed their surrounding or unpromising the space to be dealt with may be. The house itself is situated at the corner of two fine, wide roads, with, as I have said, scarcely any back premises at at all and herein lie the limitations, these have been, so far as possible, surmounted, and Dr. Thwaites now has an aviary which yields him much interest and pleasure in the intervals free from professional duties.

To be continued

From All Sources.

THE ICELANDIC FALCON.—LONELY NEWCOMER TO THE ZOO.

"In the long range of cages where the Eagles and Falcons live at the Zoological Society's Gardens there is a comparatively new denizen. He is the Icelandic Falcon, and if he could think clearly he would look down with scorn on the eagles and vultures, and especially on the peregrines who usurped his place long ago as sporting hawks. The Peregrine Falcon has a great reputation as a hunter and as a friend of man, but it is very doubtful whether he has deserved anything of the kind. He is not so swift or so clever as his brother from the north, and there are many reasons for believing that he was not the true heroic falcon of the olden days.

The fine specimen now at the Zoo is not the first that has ever been in the gardens, but he is very lonely, being one of the last of his tribe. As his name suggests, his home was in Iceland, and we have records of shiploads of the birds having been brought from the northern island to Holland, so that they might be transported to the middle of Europe.

Its grey, swift wings and its quick intuition when hunting ran up its value so highly that a ship was specially despatched from Copenhagen in 1754 to bring back as many as possible of the birds. It brought 14 of them, which were no doubt the progenitors of the finest stocks of hunting falcons in Central Europe.

Not many of the true breed are left, and the Zoo has been without a representative for a number of years, So this new one is lonely, and it must be owned not very friendly, unless approached in the right spirit. That spirit seems to have been better known in bygone days. The keeper of the hawks certainly has lost it, and as to the casual visitor, he had better leave *Hierofalco Islandus* (that is his scientific name) alone, or *Hierofalco* will greet him with a flow of bad language which could not be matched, even in the cats' house, where they swear abominably."—From the *Standard*, per Rev. G. H. Raynor.

ENGLISH WILD BIRDS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA.

"Some 450 wild birds have been despatched from Euston, England, for British Columbia. They consist of Skylarks, Robins, Goldfinches, Tits and Linnets, and they will, in the phrase on the notice attached to the special vans in which they were conveyed to Liverpool, "be set free to furnish their adopted country with British stock and melody." For several weeks past the birds have been kept in aviaries in Leadenhall Market and Bermondsey, and it took two men seven hours to catch them and put them in cages on the night before their transit. The Dominion Express Company, who have arranged the journey, have provided special accommodation on the steamer and also in the train across Canada, and as soon as the birds have reached the end of their long journey they will be released. It is intended to send out over 1,000 next spring, so that the English farmer who has emigrated west will see the English Robin perching on his fence, and hear the larks singing overhead, as in the fields at home."—From the *Christian Science Monitor*, Boston, Mass., U.S.A., per "Nemo."

NEW ZEALAND PIGEONS, BY J. DRUMMOND, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

"Major J. T. Large, the Government Resident at Atiu, one of the Cook Islands, has sent me the skins of two island pigeons. One, a large bird, is called Rupe by the natives, one of the Maori names for the New Zealand Pigeon; and the other, a smaller bird, is Kukupa, another name for the New Zealand Pigeon. Both are very handsome birds. Neither resembles the New Zealand Pigeon. The Kukupa, which Europeans call "the island dove," and which is also known as "the Rarotonga Fruit Pigeon," is officially recorded as *Ptilopus rarotongensis.* It is less than half the size of the New Zealand Pigeon, and does not possess the shining coppery green, with coppery reflections, which gives that bird's plumage its principal charm. Green is the prevailing colour in the Kukupa's plumage, but it is more grass green than metallic in appearance. Its back and the upper parts of its wings are vivid green, and a close inspection of the wing feathers shows that they are margined, sometimes narrowly, but always distinctly, with either white or yellow. The green tints of the wings vary considerably, those on the primary feathers becoming much darker and merging almost into blue. The back and sides of the head, the neck, and the upper parts of the breast are a delicate grey; the chin and part of the throat are white, washed with pale yellow; the under parts of the wings are ashy grey; and the tail is dark green, but greyish white at the end, the white bearing a narrow margin of pale yellow. The tail, underneath, like the wings is grey. The breast is yellow; the legs are purple-red, and the crowning beauty patch, perhaps, is a violet-red blot, surrounded by a light line of yellow on the top of the head and forehead. The relative sizes of this pigeon and the New Zealand Pigeon are shown by the following measurements: Total length: New Zealand Pigeon, 21in.; Kukupa, 9in. Length of wing: New Zealand Pigeon, 10·25 in.; Kukupa, 5in. Tail: New Zealand Pigeon, 8·5in; Kukupa, 3·1in. Tarsus; New Zealand Pigeon, 1·25in.; Kukupa, 0·52in.".—From the *New Zealand Herald*, per F. Howe.

"The other island pigeon, Rupe (*Globicera pacifica*), is much larger, but still falls short of the New Zealand Pigeon, which, by the way, I believe, is surpassed in size by only one other pigeon, a native of the Marquesas Islands, another Pacific group, north-east of Tahiti. The Rupe's prevailing colour is a very dark bronze-green, shading into blue. These colours are noticeable on the back and the upper parts of the wings and tail. The head and the back of the neck are grey, and this colour is very sharply defined from the dark green, there being a noticeable line of demarcation. The grey neck and green back harmonise with a light red colour, best described as vinous, which extends from the front of the neck to the breast. The sides of the body are grey, and the under parts of the wings are dark grey. while the under tail coverts afford a striking contrast to all the other feathers by being a bright chestnut. The legs are feathered close down to the feet with grey feathers, tinged with vinous, and are bright red."--From the *New Zealand Herald* per F. Howe.

THE FERN BIRD, By J. Drummond, F.L.S., FZ.S.

Mr. W. W. Smith, of New Plymouth, has kindly sent me the nest of a Fern-bird which was found by Mr. Hicks, junr., at Tikorangi, Taranaki, on October 20. It has a special value to those who are interested in native birds, because the Fern-bird's nest is not easily found. Sir Walter Buller, in all the years he spent in the open, found only one of these nests. The discovery was made many years before he wrote his large work. The nest was on the edge of a raupo-swamp, near the old mission station, on the Wairoa River, Hawke's Bay. Mr. T. H. Potts found several of this bird's nests in Canterbury, and Mr, H. Guthrie-Smith and Mr. J. C. McLean have found five, at Tutira, Hawke's Bay, the former being fortunate enough to obtain two in one day. The nest Mr. Smith has sent me is a strange little home. loosely built, so light that it weighs only three-quarters of an ounce, and so fragile that it almost crumbles to pieces when it is lifted by the hand. It is cup-shaped, stands four inches and a half high, and measures four inches in diameter from one outer wall to the other. The walls and the bottom part are composed of grass-bents and dried leaves of the "cutty-grass," with feathers of the Kiwi, the Weka, and Tui intermixed. The interior is neat, compact and comfortable. It is two inches deep and two inches in diameter, and is thickly lined with the feathers of the birds named. Some of the feathers, near the top, evidently, have been placed in position in order that they may droop inwards and, to some extent, cover the eggs or the young. Mr. Smith tells me that the nest was placed in a compact plant of native rush, the Maoris' Wiwi (*Scirpus nodosus*). interwoven with Koropiu (*Lomaria capensis*), and a fine grass called Patiti (*Microlana stipoides*). The nest contained three eggs, ovoidoconical, measuring 0.8in, with a white ground, speckled with violet and greyish-red more at the thick end than at the pointed end.

Mr. Guthrie-Smith, in his "Birds of the Water, Wood. and Waste" states that the Fern-bird's nest is planted deep, buried in fact—a foot or fifteen inches in the heart of a bunch of "cutty grass." Usually a clump is selected growing in a soft, wet spot, the Fern-bird, like the Pukeko, relying on these extra safeguards to fend off vermin and trampling stock. The nests, he says, can be discovered most easily on horseback, on account of the extra view obtained, and by continuous riding through the swamps, specimens of the birds are sure to be put up. If the bird, when flushed, flies off horizontally, probably it has been merely disturbed at feeding or resting or gathering nest materials. But if it pops straight up out of the centre of the clump the nest, after patient peering, will be found usually deep set amongst the saw-toothed blades.

I believe that in the North Island, if not in the South, the Fern-bird is better known as the "Utick," a name which Mr. Smith uses in his letter to me. It has earned the name by a peculiarly melancholy little note it utters, resembling "u-tick, u-tick" "When the shades of evening are closing in," Sir Walter Buller wrote in 1888, "the call is emitted with greater frequency and energy, and in some dreary solitudes it is almost the only sound that breaks the oppressive stillness. In the Manawatu district, where there are continuous raupo swamps, covering an area of 50,000 acres or more, I have particularly remarked this. Except for the peevish cry of the Pukeko, heard occasionally, and the boom of the lonely Bittern, the only animate sound that I could detect was the monotonous cry of this little bird calling to its fellows as it threaded its way among the tangled growth of reeds." I do not know if the Maoris still entertain a predjudice against this, the most harmless and innocent bird in the world, but it certainly was treated harshly in former times. Amongst some tribes it was the custom when a party went out against a hostile tribe to avenge a murder, but returned the same day without having met anybody upon whom vengeance could be wrecked, to catch a few Fern-birds and tear them to pieces. Each member of the party tied a limb to two fernstalks, which he held in his hands. When the party came in sight of the village to which it was returning, the members sat in a line, and holding up the sticks, sang in chorus the following invocation to the gods : --

> Maru! Heal, oh, heal the wound
> Of him who was broken and bruised!
> I invoke thy power to strike
> The back of the head of him
> Who caused life's stream to flow ;
> And thou, Tu, strike, oh, strike as he flies.

From the *New Zealand Herald*, per F. Howe.

Editorial.

Nesting Notes: These are always of interest, but the season is late in many aviaries, as the early spell caused an extra early start and most of these earlier nests failed and the long continued cold of May has all combined to make the season one of the latest for some years; but, there are many indications that it will be a good one. Some of the freely imported species are doing well: Zebra Finches in many aviaries have their first broods on the wing, and in Capt. Reeve's aviary a second brood has left the shelter of Zebra castle. In the same aviaries Cuba Finches are nesting.

In Mr. Bainbridge's aviary at Thorpe Jacarini Finches built a charming nest in a bush, about three feet from the ground. The clutch of four eggs duly hatched out and the young have left the nest. Masked Grassfinches, Cordon Bleus, Grey Singingfinches, Ruficaudas and Bronze-wing Mannikins are building; Firefinches have eggs. A second pair of Jacarini Finches are nesting on the ground.

In Dr. Scott's Aviaries at Wallington during a recent visit we noticed nests of Cuba, Ruficauda and Gouldian Finches, Zebra Waxbills. and Grey-winged Ouzels.

In Dr. Thwaites' aviaries at Brighton Goldfinches, Zebra Finches, Diamond Doves and Java Sparrows are incubating—one young Diamond Dove being already on the wing.

In Dr. L. Lovell-Keays' newly erected aviaries, containing a good assortment of Grassfinches, Waxbills, Buntings, Parrakeets, etc., some are already nesting, some incubating, including Gouldian and Ruficauda Finches. In the Parrakeet aviary, pairs, or supposed pairs, of Tovi and All Green Parrakeets have cross-mated.

In Mr. Haggie's aviary, at Oxford, which we recently had an opportunity of visiting, young Zebra Finches are on the wing, and Gouldian and Lavender Finches, and Cordon Bleus are incubating.

In Mr. Suggitt's aviaries many of the "Freely Imported Species" are nesting, some young on the wing. Grey Finches (*Spermophila grisea*) are building; Red Ground Doves have two young on the wing, and two more are being fed in the nest; Grey-winged Ouzels have two fine young birds on the wing, and are incubating again. A cock Indigo and a hen Nonpareil Bunting have cross-mated and are busy constructing a nest.

In Rev. G. H. Raynor's newly erected aviaries, young Budgerigars are on the wing, Mealy Rosellas are incubating. In the Finch aviary are building or nesting; Ribbon and Zebra Finches have young.

In Mr. De Quincey's aviaries at Chiselhurst, we recently saw several nests, Ruficauda and Long-tailed Grassfinches, Gouldian Finches are also incubating; the Yellow-headed Gouldian Finch (♀) is still living, and is expected to mate with a Red-headed cock provided for it. The most interesting happenings in these aviaries, are the hatching out of a brood of Silver-eared Mesias, which unfortunately did not live to leave the nest, and the nesting of Blue-winged Sivas, which are now incubating a clutch of eggs, in an open cup-shaped nest built in a rhododendron bush. Last season hybrid Parson + Long-tailed Grassfinches were reared in these aviaries and this season one of the young hybrids (♂) has mated up with a Long-tailed Grassfinch, and a clutch of three eggs (dove-coloured) are being incubated, it will be interesting to know if the eggs are fertile. The Parson Finch is still faithful to his Long-tail wife and six eggs (white) are in process of incubation.

Many of our members have acquired rare Indian species, from the two important consignments which have recently been landed. Miss Clare and Mr. Bainbridge have Black-chinned Yuhinas, the latter gentleman also purchased Pigmy Woodpeckers, and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches, but unfortunately both the Woodpeckers, and chestnut-bellied Nuthatches only lived about three days. Yellow-backed Red Sunbirds passed into the possession of Messrs. E. J. Brook, A. Ezra, P. Owen, and H. D. Astley, and other rarities went to other members and well known aviculturists, but we must refer to these next month.

On May 26th we had the pleasure of seeing Dr. Amsler's new aviaries, at Eton, which are very practical. We noticed pairs of Blue-winged Sivas, Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers, American Robins, the latter incubating—also newly arrived pairs of Yellow-wing and Purple Sugarbirds, many varieties of Grassfinches, etc., either building or incubating, but we hope to describe the aviaries in a near issue; we also paid a flying visit to Mr. Temple, at Datchet, whom we were fortunate enough to catch attending to the birds—he has many fine albino and pied specimens of British species, but the aviaries were only partially stocked for the season, and we shall refer to our visit again.

The Editor regrets that owing to pressure upon his time the usual notes and news cannot appear this month, and that several reviews must be held over.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that Members from all round the coast will note the movements of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—**on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.**—Ed.

April 28—On this day one pair of our regular visitors (Martins) reappeared and on

„ 29 - the second pair turned up, but it was not till

May 9—that the third pair arrived. Now every morning I pass the three nests built by the above trio. Last year the first pair stayed with us till the end of October, the second and third pairs left for more hospitable climes about the middle of October. Martins seem far more plentiful than they were last year, at least two nests being occupied for the first time for two or three years.

„ 9—I saw my first Swifts to day.

„ 24—During a country walk saw and heard several Whitethroats, also young of Starlings, Hedge-Sparrows, and Yellow-Hammers.

H. M., Luton, Beds.

„ 1—Pair of Greater Whitethroats, Hazeleigh.

„ 7—Redstart (♂) at Hazeleigh; another seen at Danbury on May 23rd. This species is always scarce here

„ 18—Lesser Whitethroat (a pair,) Hazeleigh.

„ 23—Spotted Flycatcher at Hazeleigh, another single specimen seen on the 23rd. I suppose the cocks arrive before the hens, as in the case with Nightingales. It is so with many of our other migrants?

G. H. R., Hazeleigh, Essex, May 27, 1913

Reviews and Notices of New Books.

The Year Book of the Menagerie Club, Edited by G. Tyrwhitt-Drake, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. 200 pages and many excellent photographic reproductions. 2/6 net, from the Hon. Sec. Cobtree Manor, Maidstone.

This Year Book is well got up and contains much interesting matter regarding the keeping of animals in captivity and is the second Year Book of Club. It contains the following articles from members: Prejvalysky's Horse; Notes on Monkeys; White-tailed Gnu; Spotted Hyena; Owls in Captivity; Badgers; Bears; Trail of the Pigmy Hippo; Some Foreign Birds in Captivity; Park Sheep; American Bison Bull; Fossa; Caracal; Siberian Fox; Fat-tailed Sheep of Afghanistan; Mongoose; and Reptiles in Captivity.

Each article illustrated by one or more photographic reproductions of the living creature described, and is comprehensive and informative as to description etc., and how to keep. It is a book which we cordially commend to every animal lover, whether as pets in captivity or at home in their native wilds.

Books Received: Report of the Zoological Society of London; The Condor; Animals Under British Rule.

Ornithological Report. 1912: Uppingham School, N.S.S. Principal – Rev. W. J. Constable.

This report makes most interesting reading, but the best way to indicate this will be to reprint the secretary's (C. A. Horn, Esq.), report, and also a few of the observation notes:

"In many ways this has been a remarkable season, the unusual "warmth of the weather during March and April induced the majority of "the birds round Uppingham to commence their nesting operations from "a fortnight to 3 weeks earlier than usual, owing to which the number of "expeditions of the Ornithological Section were largely curtailed. It "seems that this year a change has taken place, as regards the species of "birds that usually take up their summer residence in the neighbourhood "of Uppingham. Birds which have in former years been comparatively "rare, have this year supplanted those which have always been reported "as common. This is especially noticeable with regard to Whitethroats. "In 1910 only one nest of the Lesser Whitethroat containing 5 eggs was "found. This year several birds have been noticed, and their nests and "eggs found, though the Greater Whitethroat is still comparatively scarce. "There has also been an extraordinary decrease in the Swallows, not only "in Uppingham, it seems, but in most places in England. But, on the "other hand, many more Nightingales have been heard this year than be "fore: and Little Owls have become so common that 2 or 3 nests have "been found on nearly every expedition, and an edict has been issued for "their destruction, as it is asserted that they do a great deal of harm by "taking young pheasants and partridges, and to them is attributed the "marked decrease of small birds in the environs of Uppingham.

"On the whole the results of the expeditions have been profitable, and "some good nests have been found"

"Little Owl (*Athene noctua*): nest and young, Stockerston, June 4th, C.A. H.; nest, Seaton, H.W.J.; nest, 4 young, May 26th, beyond Glaston railway, T.R.; nest and 5 eggs. Glaston Hollows, May 12th, A.G.N.; nest and young, Stoke Wood, T W.D.; 3 young, Stockerston, P.G.C.; nest 1 young 3 eggs, Wardley, H.N.I."

"Longtailed Tit (*Acredula caudata*): seen, March 26th, Wardley, C.A.H.; nest, May 5th, Glaston, and June 4th, Wakerley, T R.; nest, Glaston, May 25th, A.G.N.; nest and eggs, March 17th, Wardley, H.N.I."

"Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*): nest and 6 eggs, Railway bank, May 24th, C.A.H.; nest and 4 eggs, Railway bank, May 19th, T.R.; nest and 5 eggs. Wakerley, P.G.C."

"Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): seen, March 31st, C.A.H.; nest, 6 eggs, Fircroft, May 14th, H.W.J; nest, 7 eggs, Railway, May 25th, T.R."

"Garden Warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*: nest, 5 eggs, June 11th, T.R.; nest 4 young, Redgate. F.E.M; nest, 3 eggs, Highfield, P.G.C; nest near Preston, 2 eggs, C.B.; nest, 2 eggs, Bisbrooke, H.N.I."

"Nightingale (*Daulias luscinia*): heard in all gardens and woods round Uppingham. Nest, Fairfield, W.J.C."

"Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*): nest, 2 eggs, May 11th, Bisbrooke, C.A.H.; nest and 5 eggs, May 25th, Glaston, T.R.; nest and 4 eggs, May 20th, Caldecott, A.G.N."

"WILLOW WREN (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): heard and seen, April 10th, C.A H.; nest and eggs, Brooklands, May 19th, T.R.; nest, 7 eggs, Glaston A.G.N.; nest, 4 eggs, Stoke Wood, T.W.D ; nest and eggs, Gipsy Lane, H.N.I."

The species are arranged alphabeticaly under headings: (*a*) Residents (*b*) Summer Visitors. (*c*) Winter Visitors, and is entirely the work of boys—the result certainly speaks very eloquently of the careful training the pupils receive from the principal and his assistants.

Correspondence.

NESTING OF RUSTY CHEEKED BABBLER (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*), etc.

Sir.— As promised, I am sending you a photo of the Babblers' nest. It was built of sticks and stalks, and was almost as big as an English Wood Pigeon's. The eggs were white, two in number, and the size and shape of an English Starling's.

The birds sat very steadily for eighteen days, when I decided to see if there were any results. To my disappointment the eggs contained dead chicks which should evidently have been hatched some days previously. The east winds at the time were probably the cause of the failure.

The Babblers have again built, but, so far, no eggs have appeared. In the next aviary a large Black-faced Yellow Weaver (species unknown) has mated up with a Chrome Yellow Weaver hen (species also unknown), and have hung a large nest from the aviary roof; the hen has lined this with feathers, and is now sitting on eggs. The Black-faced bird has since built another nest, but still drives all birds away from the nest in which the hen is sitting, even such large birds as Crested Doves and Fieldfares. As the cock Weaver is larger than the Rufous-necked, and the hen is only the size of the Grenadier, the chance of the eggs being fertile is I am afraid small.

The only other happening in my aviaries of any interest is the nesting of the Flame-shouldered Troupial, whose eggs were infertile. Hoping other members are meeting with better luck. WM. SHORE-BAILY.

Westbury, Wilts. 19/5/'13.

SOME INTERESTING NESTS, ETC.

Sir.—With reference to your enquiries re the photos sent, the only notes I can send at present are as follows:—

Olive Finch (*Phonipara lepida*). The nest was built in growing wheat suspended more or less from the wheat stalks. The wheat at time of writing is quite two feet higher than when photo was taken, and the nest is completely hidden. The parents are feeding the young on small flies and seed, and the young will soon be leaving the nest.

Cuba Finch (*Phonipara canora*). The nest is built in Spruce Fir and is constucted entirely of goat's hair, and is a very warm and waterproof structure. A clutch of eggs is being incubated.

Troupial. The Flame-shouldered Troupials nest was a very neat one, constructed ofgrass and fibre and quite unlined. Four eggs were laid but all

Photos by *Wm. Shore Baily.*

Nest and Eggs of Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler

Nest and Eggs of Flame-shouldered Troupial.

Photos by *Wm. Shore Baily.*

were infertile. They are again nesting, with, I hope, better results.

Indian Larks (*Alauda gulgula*), and Eastern Variegated Laughing-Thrushes (*Trochalopterum variegatum*) are also nesting. I will send results later.

WM. SHORE BAILY.

BRIEF NOTES FROM HODDAM CASTLE AVIARIES.

Sir.—I send you the following news for what it is worth. I have two young Cranes four or five days old, a cross between a Sarus cock and a Japanese White-naped hen. A pair of Occipital Blue Pies are building, and a pair of Purple Sunbirds are shaping to build.

Hoddam Castle, 20/5/13. E. J. BROOK.

A BLOOD-STAINED FINCH x CANARY HYBRID.

Sir.—So far as I know the above cross has not been recorded before in fact the male parent is of a species that seems to be little known. I bought the bird of an Edinburgh dealer as a "Red-headed" Finch. It is certainly not that, and I rely for my identification on Dr. Butler's book. I think there is no doubt about the bird's species, as the markings and colour arrangement agree in every respect.

The single offspring closely resembles the male parent in its shape and quick jerky movements; the markings are the same and the colour arrangement also. There is this exception in the latter case, however, viz.—that the dark crimson of the male is replaced in the offspring by the yellow of the female parent. The canary-yellow also shows faintly through the dark markings of the breast.

Curiously enough, I knew nothing of what was going on until the youngster had been flying about for some time. There are two hen Canaries in the aviary, and one of them paired with a Twite and brought up two nests of Twite x Canary Hybrids. I am forced to the conclusion that the Blood-stained Finch impregnated one egg of one of the clutches, the remainder of the broods being undoubted Twite x Canary Hybrids. I suppose there is nothing impossible in the idea, though such an occurrence must be very rare, and I am almost certain the other Canary never went to nest. I could hardly have failed to notice it if she had, and I am waiting with interest to see what happens this spring.

Do you, or any of your readers know of a similar case.

Inveresk, Midlothian. M. R. TOMLINSON.

FORTHCOMING SHOW OF FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE HORTICULTURAL HALL.

Sir,—It may interest members of this society to know that the Foreign Bird Exhibitors League has undertaken to guarantee 28 classes for foreign birds at the next London Cage Bird Association's Show to be held on Nov. 27, 28, 29. The classification is as follows:—

1 All species of Cockatoos and Macaws.

2 Grey Parrots and Amazons (i.e., all species *Chrysotis*).

3 All species Lovebirds, Passerine, Lineolated, All Green, Canary-winged, White-winged, Orange-fronted, Tovi, Golden-fronted, and Tui Parrakeets.

4 All other species Parrots, including Eclecti,

5 Green Budgerigars.

6 All species Ringnecks, including Alexandrine, Ring-necked, Blossom-headed, Rose-headed, Slate-headed, Malabar, Derbyan, Moustache, Javan, Nicobar, St. Lucien Parrakeets, etc., common Red Rosellas, Redrumps, Quakers, and Cockatiels.

7 Lories, Lorikeets, and Hanging Parrots (*Loriculæ*).

8 All other species Parrakeets.

9 Yellow Budgerigars, White Java Sparrows, Bengalese, and White Java Doves.

10 Common Mannikins, including Black-headed, White-headed, Tri-coloured, Magpie, Bronze, Spice, Striated, Sharp-tailed, Bibfinches, Grey Java Sparrows, and Common Combassous.

11 All species Weavers, Whydahs, and Long-tailed Combassous.

12 Common Ribbon Finches, Zebra and Saffron Finches and Silverbills.

13 Gouldians, Fire-tailed, Painted, Crimson, Rufous Grassfinches, Parrot Finches, Pintailed Nonpariels, Common Nonpariel, and Rainbows Buntings.

14 All other species Grassfinches including Masked, Long-tailed, White-eared, Ringed, Bicheno, Diamond, Parson, Cherry, Quail, and Red-headed Finches; Rhodesian Cutthroats, Pectoral, Yellow-rumped, Chestnut-breasted and Rufous-backed Mannikins.

15 Common African Fire Finches, Cordon Bleus, Zebra Waxbills, and Lavender Finches.

16 Common and Green Avadavats, St. Helena, Grey and Orange-cheeked Waxbills.

17 All other species Waxbills.

18 All species Cardinals.

19 All species Serins, Wild Canaries, and Siskin, including Alario, Grey and Green Singing Finches, Sulphur and St. Helena Seedeaters, etc.

20 All other species True Finches, Sparrows, Buntings, Grosbeaks, etc., not otherwise mentioned.

21 All species Doves, Quails, Partridges, and Rails.

22 All species Sugar and Sunbirds, Flowerpeckers, Quits, Honeyeaters, Zosterops, and Fruitsuckers.

23 Scarlet, Blue, Black, Maroon, Silver-blue, Violet, Olive, Palm, Superb, Archbishop, and Tricolored Tanagers.

24 All other species Tanagers.

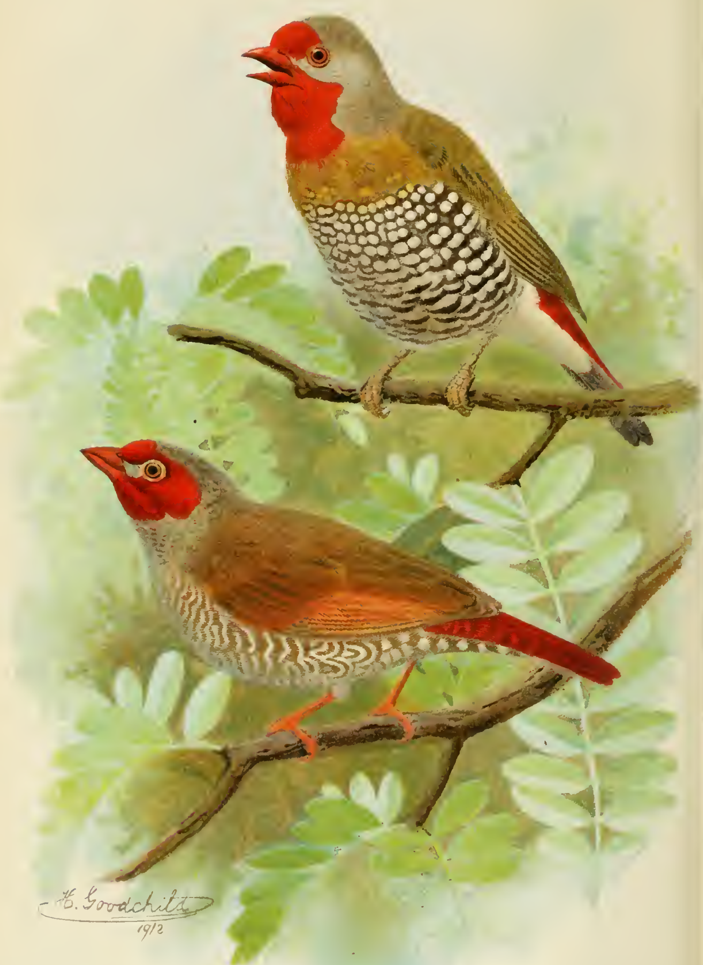
25 All species of True Bulbuls (*Pycnonotidæ*), Pekin and Blue Robins, Dayal Birds, and Shamas.

26 All species Crows, Mynahs, Starlings, Hangnests, Troupials, Cow Birds, Cassiques, and Marsh Birds.

27 Pied, Albino, Lutino, Melanistic, or other abnormally coloured birds, Blue Budgerigars and Foreign Bird Hybrids.

28 All other species not previously mentioned, including Birds of Paradise, Manucodes, Touracos, Toucans, Trogons, Tyrants, Shirkes, Flycatchers Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Barbets, Pittas and Thrush-like Birds, etc.

It will be seen that there is every opportunity for keepers of common as well as rare birds to compete upon fair grounds. Only 402 entries are required to make a complete success of the experiment and I therefore take the liberty of asking members of the Foreign Bird Club to endeavour to make it possible to hold a really good show of foreign birds by sending as many entries as they possibly can. ALLEN SILVER.


H. Goodchild
1912

H. Goodchild del.

Huth. Lith.r London.

MELBA FINCH (Pytelia melba)
RED FACED FINCH (Pytelia afra)

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Three Pyteliae.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

So far as I know, none of this beautiful genus have been bred in Great Britain. It is an African genus, but the only species I propose referring to in these notes are:

The Melba Finch (*Pytelia melba*).

The Red-faced Finch (*P. afra*).

The Crimson-winged Finch (*P. phonenicoptera*).

With Mr. Goodchild's beautiful drawing as our frontispiece, but little in the way of eulogy will be needed, and most bird-lovers, even if they have not kept them, have made their acquaintance on the show bench.

MELBA FINCH (*Pytelia [Zonogastris] melba*). Well as this beautiful species is known not a great deal has been written about it, and unfortunately the claims upon my time at this juncture, do not permit of any systematic research or compilation.

Captain Shelley states that it frequents low Mimosa bushes, mostly in pairs.

Mr. Anderson ("Birds of Damara Land") writes: "This "Finch is found sparingly in Damara and Great Namaqua "Land, and usually occurs in pairs; its favourite resort is "low bush and abandoned village fences, whence the Damaras "call it the 'Kraal Bird,' Its food consists of seeds and "insects."

Mr. Anderson calls it the Southern Red-faced Finch.

M. Heuglin writes: . . . . "its summer and winter "dress hardly differ. It is always found singly or among "clumps of trees, in thick scrub and bushes, dry sandy districts "suit it better than other localities, and it leads a quiet and "retired life. We have not observed it at great elevations, "and just as little on the grassy levels; though it only flies "a few feet at most above the ground, it only descends to "the earth for a second, does not run much here and there "upon it. It has an extremely gentle disposition, is in no "respect timid, moreover its monotonous song is only occasionally heard, at the commencement of the rainy season, sounding from the bare parts of the thorn bushes. I have been "able to learn nothing respecting its nesting habits."

In response to my enquiry as to the pair of this species under his care while aviary attendant to Mr. Willford, Mr. J. Yealland sends me the following notes:—

"The pair of Melba Finches Mr. Willford had, arrived "in the spring and were acclimatised birds. They were turned "into a small aviary and they soon settled down to nest, "nesting in a rush nest, four white eggs were laid, but all "were infertile, we threw them out and another four were laid "that season, these also were infertile. No more were laid "that season and the birds were sold to Mr. Howe, of Wellingborough, but he lost the hen."

"As regards their behaviour, they were the only pair "in the aviary, so I cannot say how they would treat other "birds. In my outdoor aviary here at Binstead, they are "inclined to be a bit quarrelsome. There are about 70 birds "in the aviary including, Tanagers, Serins, Grassfinches and "Mannikins. The Melbas boss the lot at the seed tray; but "I have not seen them actually chase the other birds about "the aviary. They sit on the branches and sing a sort of "warble. During the past twelve months I have had 28 "Melba Finches, but unfortunately very few hens come over. "I find them easy to establish, eating a lot of Indian millet "at first, and I have found it necessary to keep a large pot "of this in their cage, they also eat canary and white millet, "and are fond of chewing a mealworm. Are there two species "of these? I have one quite different from the others, much "darker in colour, and spangled differently; it is the only one 'I have had like it." [Apparently a Red-faced Finch (*P. afra*)—Ed].

I have observed this species many times in the aviary and have found them somewhat lethargic, not anything like so vivacious as the Aurora Finch for instance; still, they are not really dull birds and their great beauty, coupled with the difficulty of getting them, cause them to be much sought after.

I must qualify the above by stating that there have been a fair supply on the market during the past twelve months, but prices have ruled high.

A description is not called for with such a frontispiece to refer to, save to state that the female is duller, with the scarlet of the head replaced with ashy grey; throat pale ashy indistinctly barred with white; no yellow on the fore-neck and breast, and the scalings or barring's of the undersurface less distinct. The studies for our plate were made from Mr. Howe's specimen when exhibited at the L.C.B.A. Horticultural Hall Show.

RED-FACED FINCH (*Pytelia afra*). The distinctions between the two species are clearly shown on the plate, and again description is uncalled for, it will suffice to say that the female differs from the male in being duller coloured and having no red on the forehead, face, and throat.

Even less appears to be recorded about this species than the preceding one.

The late Herr Wiener possessed four of this species, but although they made themselves at home in his aviaries, constructing a slovenly kind of nest in a box, in which they sat for hours during the day, there was no result. They were fed on millet and canary seed and millet in the ear. They were amiable and lived for years quietly with Bicheno's Finches.

There is little doubt but that the nesting economy and general characteristics of this species would be similar to *P. melba*; as also should be their treatment in cage or aviary.

Our illustration is from a skin in the Natural History Museum.

Habitat: "Loango Coast into Benguela, E. Africa from "Nyassaland to Southern Abyssinia," "Shelley's Birds of Africa."

I have left questions of nomenclature and synonyms severely alone as the time at my disposal did not permit my going into the matter, thoroughly, but I may return to the subject in a future issue.

THE CRIMSON-WINGED FINCH (*Pytelia phoenicoptera*).

This beautiful and somewhat uncommon though well known bird is more generally spoken of as the Aurora Finch. It is a native of Africa, and has quite an extensive range over Senegambia, the Upper Nile region, and Equatorial Africa.

Plumage: The general body-colour is bluish-grey, paler and whiter on the under parts, and washed with vinous brown on the upper parts; lower back and upper tail coverts, rich crimson; lesser wing coverts, red; median and greater coverts, brownish-grey edged with red; flights, brown partially edged with dull red; central tail feathers rich crimson, with the outer ones blackish edged with crimson.* The whole of the under surface is regularly barred or scaled with greyish-white (in some specimens the white is almost pure on the abdomen and vent). The barrings vary a good deal in individual specimens, as also does the amount of white on the lower surface; some bodies that have been sent to me for identification at various times, have been scaled almost as regularly and distinctly as a Spice Finch, while in others the barrings are only to be discerned when the bird is still and fairly close to the observer, and the white of the abdomen and under tail coverts is replaced by a buffish-grey, scarcely lighter than the other portion of the lower surface; these variations have also been present in specimens that have inhabited my aviaries at various times. Beak, black; legs and feet, light brown; iris, red. Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Adult female: Slightly smaller in size, more ashen in colour, the red portions of the plumage are duller, and the barrings less distinctly defined; also her beak is narrower at the base than that of the male, but unless the birds are tame enough to permit of comparison in the hand, this is very difficult to determine; at the same time the difference is readily noted when comparing sexed skins. *P. phœnicoptera* is the type of the genus, which the late Dr. A. C. Stark gives as follows: "Bill slender, cone shaped and lengthened; culmen "swollen and slightly arched. Nostrils hidden by nasal plumes. "Wings rounded, the distance between the tips of the primaries "and the tips of the secondaries less than the length of the tarsus; "the first quill very small. Tail short, graduated. Tarsi

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*Most of the feathers of the upper surface have their tips edged with either dull red, or ruddy brown.

"scutellated anteriorly. Feet very small. The genus Pytelia "includes twelve species of Weaver-finches. They frequent "bushes and rarely perch much on the ground,* have a "somewhat monotonous song, and are gentle and confiding in "their habits.† Those species whose nesting habits have "been observed build domed nests of dry grass in bushes, "and lay three or four white eggs." I procured a pair of these birds in the early summer of 1906 (having only previously possessed two odd males), and this article except the last paragraph, refers mostly to this pair; on arrival I found them in rather poor plumage, but apparently healthy. They were put into one of my outdoor flights, and in about a month were in fine condition. They at once settled down to nesting and built in a Hartz-cage at the top of the flight, which was well screened with twigy branches, and were sitting hard, when by an unfortunate oversight on my part they escaped owing to being called away suddenly I left a small flap open, and these birds and their companions (six pairs of uncommon birds), at once found their liberty in the garden; one pair and two odd birds were recaptured, but unfortunately the Auroras were not.

To my mind Dr. Russ did not exaggerate when he described the Aurora-Astrild as one of the most exquisite of the Ornamental Finches. To see it in the aviary, flitting about in the sunlight, and making play to its mate, is certainly a sight to be remembered, and I do not wonder at his speaking of it as ravishing; it certainly cannot be fitly described in a few tame words. As the male bird makes his play, the glancing light bedecks his chaste and lovely garment as with jewels. The love dance itself is both entertaining and interesting, as with excited curtseys he hops round the female with his tail spread, and erected almost perpendicularly. This continues for some little time, when the female begins to mince on her toes, the male's movements become similar, and they thus gradually come together as though drawn magnetically. While the love sport goes on, both birds utter a monotonous but not unpleasant "tsit, tsit." The male's short song is merely one or two single, and rather mellow flute like sounds.

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*They are strictly arboreal as inhabitants of the aviary, only stopping on the ground for feeding purposes.

†This is also their demeanour in the aviary.

Dr. Russ succeeded in breeding these charming birds; four eggs were laid and incubation lasted twelve days. Nestling plumage dull blackish blue-grey, barred on the under surface; shoulders, margins of wings, and tail, dull red; beak, horn grey; legs blackish. The change to adult plumage is a slow and gradual one. While Dr. C. S. Simpson considers this bird harmless but uninteresting, the late Erskine Allon (*Avic. Mag.*, Ser. 1, Vol. III., page 125), eulogises it as follows: "This is my favourite bird and I always keep four "or five pairs at least. Confiding, good-natured, and never "ill when once acclimatised, I know no species that nests so "readily, so successfully, and with such regularity. The "pairs generally use coco-nut shells for nesting-boxes, placed "side by side, and they are absolutely fearless. I have known "a hen continue sitting while the top of the nesting box was "being *scraped.*" I cannot trace that Mr. Allon ever published any account of young birds actually reared, though the above implies this; most aviculturists get no farther than eggs. While perhaps not going quite so far as Mr. Allon they are certainly most handsome and entertaining birds, and should be in every collection of Waxbills and Finches. As regards diet, my birds had access to ripe fruit, my usual soft food mixture, sponge cake, canary, white and spray millet, and they took a little of each; were very eager for an occasional mealworm, and nearly went wild with delight over a blighty spray of rose foliage. They took a very thorough daily bath. They settle down fairly quickly, and soon recognise the one who supplies their needs, and if they do not often actually come and take an insect from the hand, they will soon take a mealworm six inches from your feet when cast on the ground. I may be a faddist, but finding they seldom or never picked at the cuttlefish, I always kept a supply of the same coarsely crushed; this sprinkled on the sand appeared to help them considerably in getting through the moult. They were about half way through this when they came into my possession. They are sun-loving creatures, and only seek shelter for a brief space about midday.

I may say in conclusion that they were kept in my greenhouse bird room, in an enclosure 5 feet by 2¼ feet by

7½ feet high. I find these enclosures answer well, but I should say they have wooden ceilings six inches below the glass.

During 1912 a pair, kindly presented to me by Dr. Hopkinson, nested in my out-door aviary at Mitcham. The nest was a bulky, untidy, yet substantial dome-shaped structure, with a smallish hole at the side, fixed in the fork of a large elder bush at a height of 11 feet above the ground. Three young birds were duly hatched out and flew, but I was away from home at the time and cannot say if they lived long enough to fend for themselves, as they disappeared and the parents also died during October.

The plumage of the above nestlings was dark bluish-grey with somewhat indistinct barrings on the under surface of body.

My Indian Consignment.

By Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 168).

I find on looking through my list that with the exception of fairly commonly imported birds and those that have been or will be mentioned, in "Birds about the Station" there is little left to say about the birds themselves. I am told an account of the actual collecting will be acceptable to our members. Whatever the account may be, I am sure that the actual experience would prove so entrancing that he would not be satisfied with a single experience, always provided he did not mind really hard work, and that he did not expect to make the expedition pay. Also, he must be prepared for numberless worries and disappointments. I should have a great admiration for the man who foresaw and took precautions against half the worries he would get but I should still more envy his luck if half his precautions proved effective. Perhaps my "halves" are rather exaggerations as naturally unforeseen accidents and disobeyed orders, which may mean so very much, are apt to assume undue proportions and the hundred and one things which have gone all right are taken as a matter of course.

There really ought to be two to make a good collection, as one should remain at headquarters to look after birds already captured. There may be little or no trapping to be done close to headquarters and then one has to trust to luck as to what may be brought in and thus loses the most interesting part of collecting, viz.: the actual trapping. This is the reason that as a rule hens are far harder to get at home than cocks, even with birds that are fairly well known. In many cases the trappers do not know the hens, though frequently they will not acknowledge this, and one gets the most ill assorted birds brought in as a pair,—for some strange reason the Sahib wants pairs, and who are we to disappoint him? One day a Crow-Tit was brought in as the hen of a White-headed Shrike-Babbler, in spite of the difference in beaks, and the former had made its beak noticed. The next day a Rusty-cheeked and Slaty-headed Scimitar Babbler were said to be a pair. Some men are not quite so bad; and at any rate I have found the natives better at trapping than at looking after their captures, and so I had to forego trapping to a large extent, and had usually reason to regret it when I did indulge myself. This applies chiefly to my Darjeeling trip. My bungalow at Bakloh makes an ideal headquarters as trapping is good quite close. I seem to be getting on a bit too fast. What I wanted to lay stress on was the advisability of collecting with a companion if possible, though for an attempt like this I must confess that it would not be easy for anyone to find a really suitable companion, hastily adding that of course married couples count as one and cannot be separated at any rate in wild and solitary places. When found the fortunate two would have a most decided advantage over the single collector, expenses would not be anything like doubled, results would be much more than doubled, and the worries (bar rows) would be more than halved. In fact even if the component parts were not ideally suitable a combination is strongly to be recommended.

Even in a small amateur venture like mine, where the object was to get a varied collection of rarities home, with the smallest percentage of deaths possible, it is astonishing how much there is of organization and arrangement hereinafter to be called "bundobust" (both "us" as in gun more correctly spelt with "as" instead of "us").

First there is the caging and all that apertains thereto, a most important branch, meating off, what I might call stock, and travelling cages all require a great deal of thinking out, especially if one has to pay a good deal of attention to cutting down expenses, having due regard to efficiency. The birds must have sufficient room, yet freightage has to be considered, very much so. Time spent in one's leisure moments (not many nowadays) on devising and carrying out little labour-saving jims brings its reward later, especially on board ship, where one has to do everything oneself. Even one's hired men appreciate such things, when they once have got the hang of them. In my travelling cages for small insectivorous birds, which have to be carried in separate compartments, there are six compartments in a row; to save labour one tin is made to serve two compartments. On a journey one cannot be always opening doors to put in food and water. A two-inch bar of wood runs all along the bottom part of the front of the cage, leaving a half-inch gap for trays. In these food-bars as I call them, are cut five holes to take the tins, four by one and a quarter inches, placed so that each of the six compartments has half a tin. Each tin has a strip of tin soldered across the middle, this reaches neither to the top nor to the bottom, and does not interfere with cleaning, but does stop birds going into another compartment. The outer compartments have smaller holes; two by one and a quarter, towards the outer ends. The compartment divisions are of wood for two and a half inches from the bottom, leaving a half-inch gap necessary for the trays, which for this cage run three to a row and are all interchangeable. In these division-bars at the front end are cut holes to take the tins, which are a trifle under two and a half inches wide. Along these bars through staples or better still between right angle screws (mentioned later) runs a bit of punched bar "front" one inch wide. The bottom wire is prolonged to go through a groove in the food bar and turned up into a convenient sort of little handle just in front of the bottom of the food tin. When the tin is pulled out, this prevents birds going into other compartments; short strips of punch bar soldered at right angles to the slide so as to rest just behind the tin prevent the birds getting out. I fear this is not very clear and may seem difficult to make, but in these days of punched bars and easy soldering it really is better to make, at any rate the patterns, oneself, and these slides are very easy if a fair number are made at the same time. I hardly fancy it would be of general interest, as it is I think I have gone into detail too much, or I should be only too glad to go into full detail with rough sketches and method of procedure. But to get on, the tins are held in place with right angle screws or simple turn-down wire. By this method I make seven tins do the work of twelve, no mean saving of labour, and my sliding jim saves me from anxiety as regards escapes. The small holes are covered by a bit of tin soldered to the angle screw. These tins provide food and water; for live food a small tin is hung inside between the other tins; into this, mealworms, etc., are shoved through the wire by means of small surgical forceps. The latter are invaluable, especially for those with female belongings, who are kind enough to take a hand, but who have no special love for mealworms and still less for the etceteras.

The remainder of my fronts and partitions are of punched bar front. Each compartment has a small door and I am liberal with the punched bar, as coolies are very fond of trying (succeeding only in one's absence) to lift cages with their fingers through the wire near the side. I lost my dear old pair of Hanging Parrakeets in this way on the way down out of a cage made in England. This and another which were supposed to be made somewhat after an ancient pattern of mine were the chief worry on the way home. Weak wiring and huge doors opening all the way up accounted for several escapes. The catch would have allowed for several more had I not wired up the doors only opening them to give baths. The perches (made from an ancient jim of mine but spoilt out of recognition) came out only too easily but were the very mischief to put back till I fixed them up. The trays (beautifully enamelled) stuck and the tins stuck, and nothing was interchangeable. The various catches only caught when they were not wanted to. Finally the perches were splintery and every bird in those cages became afflicted more or less with sore feet, the only cases I had. By closing up I managed to do without these cages, and I gave them to a steward, I ought really to have thrown them over-board. Nearly all (if we exclude those due to the mishap at Calais) of the casualties both during the voyage and shortly after arrival occurred amongst birds which had been in those cages, which is curious as these birds were by no means the most delicate.

My own perches, two in number, run the whole length of a row. The front one is about level with the tins and about half an inch from them. It is round $\frac{3}{8}$ inch and passes through $\frac{1}{2}$ inch holes in the right side and partitions; the left end which is tapered near the tip is jammed into and slightly through a quarter inch hole at the left side of the cage. The back perch is a bit larger, rectangular, with the edges just rounded off and is jammed in the same way. Perches were frequently cleaned; to this and to frequent baths I attribute my freedom from sore feet. Bath cages to hang on the front were made to "nest" as were the baths themselves. I only had eight but would have been glad of a few more, another half dozen would have taken up little more room.

The wood frame of the cage is made of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch pine, except the side pieces which are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. This sounds heavy but ordinary cage wood will not stand the knocking about getting to the railway, even if it would stand the journey afterwards. Freight in India is charged by bulk, as indeed it is on the ship. Mail trains may refuse to take packages measuring over eight cubic feet. Rope handles are fitted near the top of each side piece, and they are highly appreciated by the coolie when he has been shown what they are there for, and after he has been shown firmly and perhaps even forcibly that it is not the right thing to carry cages on his head. I had light curtains in front but found that I preferred bird with nerves slightly on edge (and they soon get used to being stared at from a few inches off) to cages being neatly piled up on their backs or fronts and tore off these dangerous attachments. Since leaving them off, I have had no cages damaged by brute force. All my cages are made in pairs so that by putting them face to face, practically touching at night I can retire with an easy mind as regards cats and rats. I spent a good part of my second night on board first of all watching the efforts of a rat, and later those of one of the ship's cats, and came to the conclusion that there was nothing to fear from either of these pests.

My cages take to pieces, being screwed together. When screwed, the fronts are fixed; I do not believe in taking risks, and at any rate for a rail journey I fasten the doors with fine wire twisted tight with the pliers, and the twisted part cut off fairly close. The wire partitions have a wire near each end slightly prolonged at the top to fit into two holes at the top of the cage, one wire near the middle is prolonged and is bent a little outwards and then down into a longish narrow loop to go over a screw eye in the wood part of the partition on the side away from the slide. The wire part can be quickly put on or off when the perches and the tray have been removed. In my latest pattern the partition, when not in use, is kept at the back or side by means of similar holes and a screw eye. When I have mentioned that my tins have flanges at the side and that all parts are interchangeable, I think there is little more to be said about the general idea of my travelling cage. For certain birds I may put a bit of punched bar front over the tray, but otherwise for insectivorous birds requiring separate compartments I am very well satisfied with it. I mentioned right-angled screws, and as I think it quite likely that the Editor will politely but firmly intimate that cages are taboo for a bit, I had better explain myself in this instalment and for this I make no apology, as many will find it useful, and though it may be stale, I lay claim to independent discovery.

First catch your Nettlefold's patent pointed tinned iron screw eye, an inch one can be manipulated, but a half-inch or even smaller is the easier and is as likely to prove useful. Grip the screw part firmly with a large pair of pliers in the left hand, then with a smaller pair gripping the metal inside nearly at right angles with the screw. The open end of the ring with a bold bend back till the near part of the ring is nearly at right angles with the screw. The open end of the ring can be seen fairly easily. With the large pliers bend out any kinks by putting the kink between the pliers and squeezing out the kink. Take care not to bend back too far as it takes a very slight bend back towards the original position to break the eye. The curled tip may be used as a sort of handle or it may be straightened out or cut off to taste. I like doors to my nest boxes, you probably do not but if you do any of your own aviary furnishing I think you will find a use for these screws. I must apologise for this lengthy effusion about a single cage, I fear only a few will be interested in it and those few will probably be thinking of an old proverb concerning eggs and a granny. I somewhat temper my apology by mentioning that I shall probably let myself go on cages again if I get the chance, excusing myself on the grounds that I have had it thoroughly borne in on me how very important good caging is in its effect on mortality of foreign birds. It is not the dealer or experienced collector that I have in my mind's eye, but rather the man with a friend in foreign parts, who tries to get home small consignments by a ship's butcher. The friend probably does not know too much about birds and the wretched butcher gets only an hour or two of perhaps not very clear coaching, and he may consider himself lucky to get that, and what happens as a rule is, a cat or a rat takes half the first night out or a lot get out through a door being left open. The casualties are directly preventible by good caging. Other and even more deadly causes of casualties are sore feet and various diseases brought on by dirt, and good caging has decidedly an indirect effect of giving time to clean up. Such consignments would be a boon, but they can hardly be looked on as successes as a rule at present. I am not trying to "get at" anyone. Many years ago I got out a consignment of hardy seed-eaters from home. I happened to look at the cage they came in just before my departure from India, and I shuddered, and yet that dealer had done his best I know. Thanks to the chief officer of the ship I really got a fair number. My first venture home with Indian birds was miserably caged, and I had kept birds all my life. By dint of real hard work I should not have done so badly but for want of live food. I was offering a penny apiece for cockroaches without success, but had I had more time I might have got just a few daily myself and saved a few more birds, as I had only a small consignment. Not that I did so very badly then, but no one with other work to do could have landed any except perhaps some of the seed-eaters.

I really must stop now, but caging is a subject I feel very strongly about, not altogether from the sentimental point of view, because I know what a minute portion of the wastage in bird life is due to catching. I must take a grip of myself or I shall be off on another of my hobbies. I believe our harassed Editor will take most of this, unless it is too late, as he tells me he is rather short of copy this month or there are others who are also late. We really treat our energetic Editor rather badly, and like a good many people who seem to like work he gets put upon.

To be continued.

Some Interesting Birds.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S. ILLUSTRATED FROM LIFE, BY H. WILLFORD,

Continued from page 165.

SILVERY-CROWNED FRIAR BIRDS (*Philemon argenticeps*): In April, 1908, Messrs. Payne and Wallace imported of the Australian Honey-eaters four of this species and one Dusky Mynah or Obscure Honey-eater. All of these came into my possession. These specimens I believe to be not merely the first imported, but the only specimens ever brought to Europe alive. The Friar Birds were first sent to the Zoo—one pair presented, and one pair on deposit—where they did well and two are still living; they soon improved in appearance, and throve on their diet of milk sop, banana, soft food and mealworms. This species is one of the least beautiful of the five species enumerated by Gould in his "Birds of Australia," viz., The Common, Helmeted, Silvery-crowned, Yellow-throated, and Sordid; all of which he places in the genus *Tropidorhynchus*.

"For the first knowledge of this species of *Tropidorhynchus*, science "is indebted to the late Mr. Bynoe, Surgeon of H.M. Surveying ship, "" Beagle," who, on my visiting Sydney, placed his specimens at my dis-"posal; after my return other examples were sent to me by Sir George "Grey. Bynoe's specimens were all obtained during the Survey of the "north-west coast, a portion of Australia, the natural productions of which "are but little known; and Sir George Grey's during his expedition into "the interior, from the same coast...........Of its habits and economy "nothing is known; but as it is very nearly allied to the Common Friar Bird "(*T. corniculatus*), we may reasonably conclude that they are very similar. "Description: Crown of the head silvery-grey; the remainder of the head

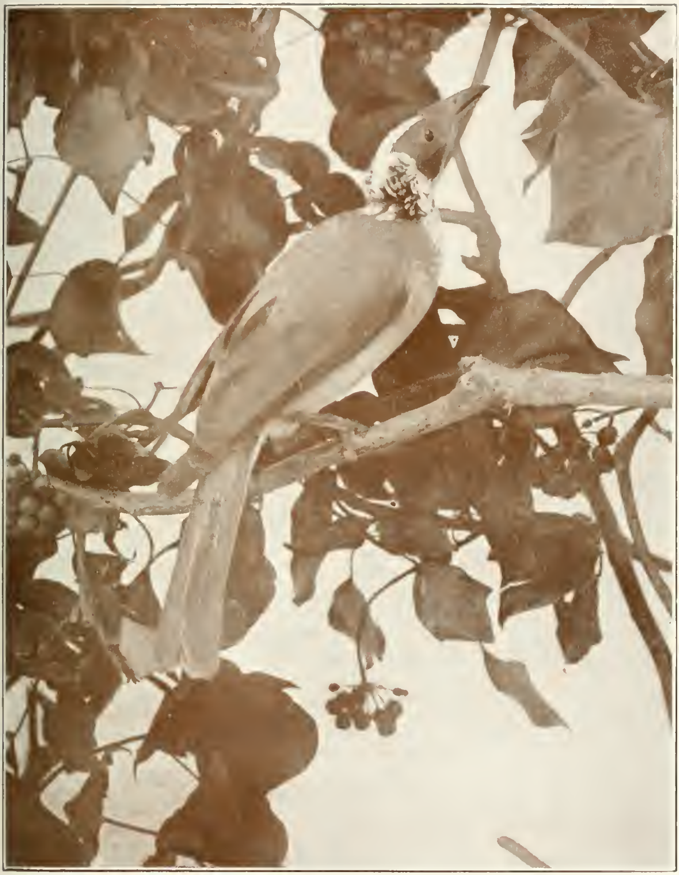

Photo from life by H. Willord.

Silvery-crowned Friar-Bird.

> " naked, and of a blackish brown ; throat and all the under surface white ; " back, wing, and tail brown ; bill and feet blackish brown. Total length " 10½ inches ; bill 1⅜ ; wing 5⅛ ; tail 4½ ; tarsi 1⅓ *(Gould's Birds of Australia,* " Vol. 1.)."

A fairly extended acquaintance with this species, enables me, after reading Gould's account of the Common Friar Bird, than which he states there are few birds more familiarly known in N.S. Wales, to draw the conclusion that the habits and economy of the Silvery crowned and Common Friar Birds must be very similar. Gould dubs them a remarkable genus, and I am assured that all who get an opportunity of viewing these birds in the Western Aviary at the Zoo, will agree with him: as I do after having them under observation in one of my bird-room enclosures, and also in the aviary.

Vernacular names: The bare skin areas of the head and neck have secured for the genus the names of "Friar Bird," "Monk," "Leather Head," while yet another very appropriate one suggests itself to me, viz., Vulture-headed Honey-eater.

As regards description, that given by Gould is quite accurate, save that I should describe the throat and under surface as hoary and not white.

In a state of nature they frequent the tops of very lofty trees, their flight is undulating and powerful; they are very agile among the branches and can assume almost any position with ease.

> " Its food consists of the pollen of the *Eucalypti*, insects, and wild figs " and berries. (*Gould's Birds of Australia*, Vol. 1.)."

In the aviary its undulating and powerful flight, and clinging attitudes are both Tit- and Parrot-like, this strikes one at once: no position seems to come amiss to it, whether on the upper or underside of perch or branch or clinging with one or both feet. The Friar-Bird shows to great advantage when catching mealworms on the wing, the wonderful swallow-like flight is then seen to great advantage, as they rise and fall or wheel to and fro to catch what has been thrown up, and so adept are they, that it is quite an exception for them to miss their prey.

The nest of the Silvery-crowned does not yet appear to have been described or I have overlooked it, but that of the Common Friar Gould describes as rudely constructed, cup-shaped and of large size; composed outwardly of string bark and wool, to which succeeds a layer of fine twigs lined with grasses and fibrous roots, the whole being suspended to the horizontal branch of an apple- (*Angophora*) or gum-tree without the least regard to secrecy, frequently within a few feet of the ground. Eggs, usually three in number and of a pale salmon-colour, with minute darker spots. Here, again, one appears to be fairly safe in assuming that the nest and eggs, etc., of the Silvery-crowned would be similar.

In a state of nature Gould states they are almost gregarious, the nests are so numerous and in such close proximity; though in the breeding season they become very animated and fierce, readily attacking Crows, Hawks, and Magpies that may venture near the nests. In the aviary the Silvery-crowned soon gave indications that the two pairs would soon have to be separated, and I have no hesitation in saying that it would not be possible to keep two adult pairs in the same enclosure in captivity.

I am pleased to say that three of the quartet referred to are still alive, two of them (both males) at the London Zoo can be regularly seen disporting themselves in the Western Aviary, where they delight visitors with their dexterity in catching insects on the wing, their beautiful flight and handsome, if somewhat sombre, plumage. While a pair of them remained in my possession they proved most interesting and but for the breaking up of my aviaries in 1910, and the death of the hen, while fresh aviaries were going up, I think they would have bred, as they gave every indication of doing so. On one occasion the cock bird escaped while they were being transferred from the birdroom to the outdoor aviary. It at once flew away to some distance and I gave it up for lost. It was out of sight for longish periods, though its weird and strange cries, sounding most un-English, were frequently repeated with about ten to fifteen minutes silent intervals. I presume it must have attracted much attention and wonder. Fortunately for me, after six hours of liberty, it returned, and went into the greenhouse-birdroom, flew into its enclosure, the door of which I had left open and quickly settled down on a perch, to my very great relief. Though the period of its liberty was a most anxious one for me—a commingling of much interest and anxiety—was softened in a measure by the

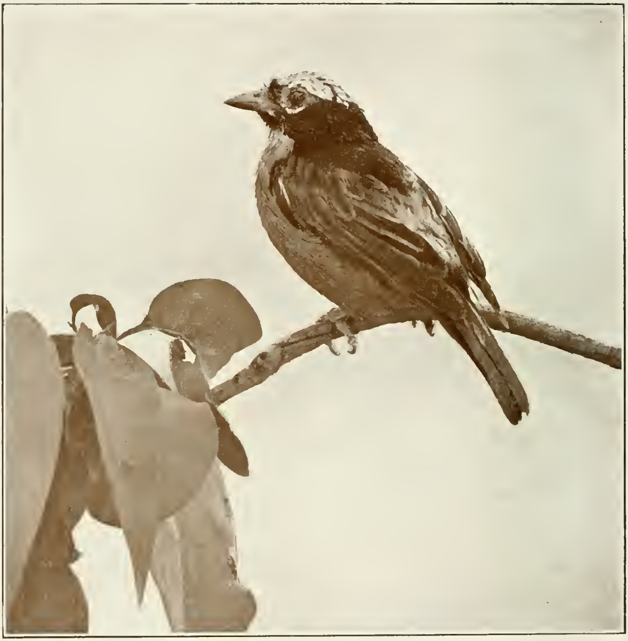

Photo from life by H. Willford.

The Superb Tanager.

periods (about half-hour) of observation I got of it, disporting itself among the trees of my neighbours' gardens.

This species, though plainly clad, is very handsome and striking even in a small flight; but seeing it thus disporting itself at large among the *tops* of my neighbours' fruit trees, was the sight of a life-time—It was a bit of Australian wild life enacted in a London suburb—and will ever be green in my memory; it certainly was some compensation for the anxiety I endured while it was at large. Plain! its beauty was simply marvellous, and though it is a large bird its deportment was Tit-like, with a beautiful Swallow-like flight. Its attitude was also very striking, as it stood on the topmost twigs of some high tree, with its head thrown well back, uttering its loud weird cries, which were answered by the female (her's being quite different) and to this fact I attribute its return. The cries were also uttered while it indulged in a sort of wheeling-flight around the tree tops.

After losing the hen, I let Mr. Willford have the cock by way of exchange—after he had observed it and secured several photographs of it, he also parted with it, but I believe it is still fit and well, and a source of much interest in a Chiswick aviary at the present time. In one of Mr. Willford's roomy flights its general demeanour, deportment, etc., was most interesting, while its flight was admired by all, though the quiet beauty of its plumage did not appeal to all.

The Australian Honey-eaters are a large and variable group of birds, many of them with really brilliant plumage, varying in size from a Sparrow to that of a large Thrush. The Friar-Birds (*Philemon*) are but a small genus of a most interesting group of birds; they improve upon acquaintance, and given suitable accommodation, are a source of continuous interest.

From my experience of the Australian Honey-eaters I am convinced that nearly all the species would thrive on milk sop, soft food, soft ripe fruit and live insects, such as mealworms, beetles, cockroaches, grasshoppers, etc. Their cage or enclosure should be a roomy one.

THE SUPERB TANAGER (*Calliste fastuosa*). Tanagers are a group of birds, clad almost without exception in irides-cent hues of gorgeous tropical colours, and their plumage with a surface like silk or satin.

Not the least beautiful, if one of the most freely imported and best known, is the subject of Mr. Willford's fine photograph. A photograph, however, can never do justice to a Tanager, for it is almost impossible to get good colour values, or to indicate fully even the beautiful contrasts of light and shade in an uncoloured plate. The photograph, however, is so good that few would fail to recognise the bird, I think, even if it were placed before one without any title, that those who failed to recognise the species would declare it to be a Tanager.

A Tanager is a fruit-eating Finch, with a tooth at the tip of the beak, hence Dr. Sclater's term of them, dentirostral Finches; this tooth enables them to scoop out quite huge mouthfuls of fruit, as every observer must have noted who has kept or had under study this magnificent group.

The Superb Tanager well earns the title, gloriously coloured, which has been given it, and, though so frequently and regularly imported, very little of its wild life has been reported by scientific collectors. It is a native of Pernambuco.

Description : Top of head, sides of face and neck glittering emerald green, with a golden sheen ; the upper back rich velvety bluish-black; lower back rump and upper tail-coverts rich cadmium-yellow ; wings black, with purplish-blue margins ; least wing coverts (butts), emerald green ; lesser wing coverts deep blue, outer webs of secondaries margined with golden-orange ; the tail is black with the basal portion of the outer webs margined with purplish-blue ; chin and throat velvety black ; upper breast silvery lavender passing into violet, then merging into deep purplish-blue on the abdomen and under tail-coverts ; beak and legs black ; iris brown : Total length 5¾ inches.

The female is similar to the male, but is slightly less brilliant.

The Superb Tanager is well known to almost every bird-lover in this country—there are few bird shows at which he does not compete, and he makes such an ideal cage bird, that with the keepers of this group he may almost be called the common bird. He soon becomes familiar and comes to the front with cheerful chirp and flick of tail, with an expression, commonly interpreted as "What is it, fruit or mealworms?" Very soon he learns to take mealworms from the hand and like the Fruitsuckers, has the habit of holding one in his beak, singing his song, flitting to and fro about the cage, apparently in the very height of bliss, ultimately swallowing it, and then if he gets others, repeating the performance again and again. He is very fond of a bath, and should have one daily, and in addition to mealworms get ripe fruit (banana, orange, soft apple, pear etc.), and insectile mixture—most Tanagers are fond of milk-sop and I believe it to be good for them, but they do well without it. The cage should be a roomy one, as they are large eaters and get over fat, if the conditions, of their domicile is not favourable to exercise.

The charm of the Superb is not confined to being kept in a cage, for if he be ideal there, he is glorious in a roomy out-door aviary, as he flies to and from the sun lighting up his glittering garment with indescribable gorgeous beauty. Providing the aviary has a suitable shelter they can be left out of doors all the year round, and are so kept in many aviaries in the neighbourhood of London.

In a state of nature Tanagers frequent the tops of tall trees, but descend to feed upon ripe fruit and also to nest. The nests of *Calliste* are open cup-shaped structures, but very few of them appear to have been described. According to W. A. Forbes, this species is peculiar to Pernambuco and he writes concerning it:

> " It is a species often seen, too, alive in the Zoological Gardens of " Europe, though no naturalist seems to have yet met with it in a wild " state. It does not appear to be common in Pernambuco, at least I only " met with it twice ; once near Macua, were I shot a female out of some " bush capocira, and again at Quipapa, where I saw what I believed was " this species in the virgin forest. The bird, however, was perched at a " great height from the ground on the topmost branch of a large tree, and " only the brilliant orange of the rump was visible. Whilst staying at " Cabo a freshly-shot adult of this bird was brought to me to skin."

Before closing this somewhat verbose account I had better remark that I do not consider too many species of Tanagers should be kept together in one aviary, but, in any aviary which provides a roomy flight and an almost equally roomy shelter, several (three or four) pairs of different species could be kept along with seed-eaters, and other insectivorous or frugivorous species. Under such conditions they form a spectacle of which the eye never wearies.

(To be Continued).

The Breeding of the Giant Nigerian Yellow and Transvaal Weavers.

By W. Shore-Baily.

The most interesting event in my aviaries, so far this season, is the successful rearing of two young hybrid Weavers. The cock came from Nigeria and is about the size of an English Thrush. The general body colour is deep yellow; the back and wings greenish yellow; barred with a slightly deeper colour; front of the face dusky; iris of eye white. The hen came from the Transvaal, and is the size of a Saffron Finch, and very much resembles the cock Saffron Finch in colour. Neither bird has had any seasonal change of colour since I have had them. The nest, of considerable size, was hung from the roof of the aviary, and was built by the cock, pampas grass being the material used, into which he wove small sprigs plucked from the various conifers growing in the aviary. The hen lined the nest with feathers, and on examining it when the young had flown, I found it perfectly clean and unsoiled. Two eggs were laid, white, spotted and blotched with purple; the markings being principally at the larger end. Incubation lasted ten days, and the young were in the nest twenty-one days. For the first ten days the hen alone fed the young, principally upon what flies she could catch supplemented with the mealworms I supplied, which she would break up. During this period the cock kept vigilant watch over the nest, driving away such large birds as Crested Doves and Fieldfares. During his spare moments he suspended three

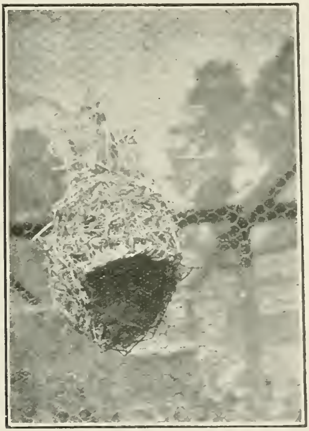

Photo by W. Shore Baily.
Nest in which Hybrid Weavers were reared.

more nests from the aviary roof. After ten days, the cock began to feed his progeny with mealworms, the heads of which he first bit off. As there were a great many other birds in the aviary who also appreciated mealworms, it was impossible to leave a sufficient supply for the Weavers, so I had to arrange to feed them every two or three hours, which I did by throwing the mealworms to them one at a time. It was astonishing how quickly they learnt to snap them up, before the other birds could get them; the cock, especially, often catching them in the air. This system of feeding also had the effect of making the parents exceedingly tame and I think that this always tends to success in rearing. The young birds are considerably larger than their mother, and are about the colour of a grey Singing Finch. If they do well and survive the winter, I hope to be able to report the colour change in due season. The hen is again sitting on two eggs which are due to hatch on July 8th.

Early Episodes of 1913.

By Herbert Bright.

At the Editor's request I am penning these notes and trust they may be of some little interest to "B.N." readers. I am only a comparatively recent adherent to the fascinating hobby of Foreign Bird Keeping, and at present the Australian Finches are of intense interest to me.

I have two out-door aviaries, one 33 feet by 16, the other 35 feet x 18, both are from 8 to 9 feet high (photo reproductions appeared in last Vol. of "B.N."). The smaller aviary has an extra shelter shed, 20 feet x 8, to which the birds have continuous access, this shelter is well lighted, but entirely covered in, except the top part of one end, which communicates with the flight. Both flights have plenty of cover, being planted with trees and shrubs; the flights are fitted with movable glazed windows for protection during inclement weather, as we get some very severe periods in this district (Cressington Park, Liverpool). The aviaries are largely stocked with Australian Finches, but other groups are represented to some extent.

Yellow-rumped Finches (*Munia flaviprymna*). These first built a nest in a Hartz-cage, but, evidently were not pleased with the same, for they deserted it in favour of a rush nest, which they neatly lined with hay etc., leaving only a very small entrance hole. This hole has now got considerably larger from "wear and tear," principally during the operation of feeding the young, of which there are several, they have not yet left the nest, but may be both seen and heard. At first they fed the young entirely on grass seeds (flowering grass), and soaked seeds thrown upon the ground, but, recently, since the young have become larger a good deal of hard-seed has been taken.

PECTORAL FINCHES (*Munia pectoralis*). The same remarks apply to this species as to the preceding, save that they are very shy, retiring, and difficult to observe, but one pair are feeding young. The pair in the other aviary have made no attempt to nest at present.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED FINCHES (*Munia castaneithorax*). I have two pairs of this species, quite young birds when I received them, they are just through the moult, and both pairs are attempting to nest—one pair have taken possession of an old nest, altering and adding to it, the other pair are flying about with nesting material, and are evidently busily constructing a nest.

LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCHES (*Poephila acuticauda*). I have several pairs of this interesting species and all give promise of doing well. Two pairs are busily feeding broods, the young are making a great noise, but have not yet flown—other pairs are either incubating or feeding young.

CHERRY FINCHES (*Aidemosyne modesta*). This well known species is very uncommon on the English market at the present time. My pair have built a nest, but I do not think they have eggs at time of writing (June 26).

DIAMOND FINCHES (*Steganopleura guttata*). These have fought amongst each other a good deal and results have not been good. I found three partly hatched young in one nest; this pair have nested again, and may be feeding young this time, as they keep closely to the nest. Another pair laid again but the eggs failed to hatch.

RUFICAUDA FINCHES (*Bathilda ruficauda*). There are two pairs of this species and both are nesting, but I do not know anything definite at present. One pair have a nest in a bank and the other at the root of a hazel tree; I think the latter pair may have young, that is, judging from the usual signs—driving away all birds, eagerly eating of grass seeds and promptly returning to the nest.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Taeniopygia castanotis*). All I need remark of this well known but interesting species is, that a number of young are on the wing.

BICHENO'S FINCHES (*Stictoptera bichenovi*). These charming birds nested and laid while in the bird-room, but the eggs proved infertile. I then put them in the out-door aviary, since which they have again constructed a nest, but there are no eggs at present.

GOULDIAN FINCHES (*Poephila gouldiæ*). These are just coming through the moult, and one pair have taken possession of a box, but they mostly still show traces of the moult on their heads. My Yellow-headed Gouldian mated with a Red-headed hen, and started to nest, but has felt the cold and given up,—he is not looking very tight in feather.

MANNIKINS: There are two strong young Magpies on the wing, and White-heads, Black-heads, Bronze-wings, and Bib Finches are all nesting, but I can't say whether any have got as far as eggs.

MELBA FINCHES (*Pytelia melba*). These went to nest while still in the birdroom, constructing a nest of hay, lined with feathers, in a fir-tree; two eggs were laid, but deserted after incubating for two or three days. I then put them outside, and they went to nest again at once, building a rather larger nest of hay, which they again lined with feathers, in the shelter shed. The incubation period is about up I should say, and as I saw both birds off the nest eating gentles and live ants' eggs, there may be young in the nest, for the birds return to the nest immediately after feeding on the live food. The cock bird has been on the nest a good deal during the day-time.

BLUE-BREASTED WAXBILLS (*Estrilda angolensis*). These have nested, but there are no eggs up to the present. The same applies to a Cordon Bleu mated to a Blue-breasted hen.

GREY WAXBILLS (*Estrilda cinerea*). These have built a nest in long grass at the bottom of a bank, and I saw one of them carrying in a feather last night. While writing of Waxbills I may say that there is a nest in the grass containing six small white eggs, but I have never seen a bird entering or leaving it, but as they built there last year I think it must be the work of the Orange-cheeks.

NONPAREIL BUNTINGS (*Cyanospiza ciris*). Not yet attempted anything—seem to be moulting.

RAINBOW BUNTINGS (*Cyanospiza leclancheri*). Only young birds, not moulted out properly yet.

PILEATED FINCHES (*Coryphospingus pileatus*). Have not attempted anything so far.

EULER'S FINCH (*Spermophila superciliaris*). These built a small cup-shaped nest, unlined and evidently not complete, close against the stem of a small holly tree, then they built another close under the shelter board round the top of flight; now they are back again at the first one, evidently of the mind to complete it—so far it is constructed mostly of the outside strips of bark pulled from a creeper. This is all at present, but the weather here has been cold and wet and the season later here than in more southern aviaries.

YELLOW-THROATED SPARROWS (*Petronia flavicollis*). This pair of birds I acquired from Major Perreau. Since they have been turned out they have been moulting, but have now begun to chase each other like a pair of Swifts all round the place and it is quite apparent the cock desires to nest. Up till now they have lived at different ends of the aviary, taking no notice of each other, the cock now comes over to the hen and worries her till they both dash off round and round the place.

RED-HEADED BUNTINGS (*Emberiza luteola*). These either have a nest or are building one of dried grass roots in a bank, but, I have not looked, not wishing to disturb them. I think it is on the top of the bank amid some long grass.

HOODED SISKINS (*Chrysomitris cucullata*). These charming birds have been carrying nesting material about for some time, but seem to get no "forrarder."

GREEN (*Stictospiza formosa*) AND RED AVADAVATS (*Sporocginthus amandava*). I have several pairs of each species, all have nested, but I can't see any results so far.

HIMALAYAN GREENFINCHES (*Hypacanthus spinoides*). These were procured from the consignment of Indian birds recently brought over by Major Perreau are looking lovely, but except that they go about together are showing but little inclination to go to nest.

MASKED GRASSFINCHES (*Poephila personata*). I have several pairs and one pair is certainly incubating, but the other pairs have got no further than nest construction at present.

BEARDED TITS (*Panurus biarmicus*) are pairing, but no signs of nests, owing, I think, to the lack of reeds and a proper place to build in. SIBERIAN BULLFINCHES have just been put out, and they have promptly cleared off the buds from brambles, currants, privet, roses, etc.,—however there is plenty for them in the way of buds, and I hope they may breed.

PINK-BROWED ROSEFINCH (*Propasser rhodochrous*). These all arrived out of colour, therefore the males at any rate were immature, and no plumatic change has, as yet taken place, consequently nesting has not been expected. However, for some time they were quite energetic, carrying building material into a rush nest, but have now given it up for the time being.

HYBRIDISING. An odd Parrot Finch (♂) and a Cuban Finch have mated and built a nest, but there are no eggs at time of writing. My odd Red-headed Finch (*Amadina erythrocephala*) has mated up with a Cutthroat (*A. fasciata*) hen, but I had to remove them from the general aviary as they go and lie in other birds' nests. I put them in an extra aviary I have, where they at once went to nest and hatched out three young birds, which died for want of proper food—we were not aware they had young and no live food or ants' eggs was supplied. They are again incubating another clutch of eggs.

All the birds eat huge quantities of seeding grass; we put in large bundles three times a day, and it is soon stripped though there is plenty in the aviary growing naturally—*they all eat it.*

DOVES AND PIGEONS.

PLUMED GROUND DOVES (*Lophophaps leucogaster*). These handsome Doves have laid three clutches of eggs, but, have only incubated one, and then only for about four days. Only one proper nest was constructed, hay, and twigs were gathered together in a hollow, the nest was quite nicely formed and a good quantity of material used. Both sexes shared the duties of incubation.

VIOLET DOVES (*Leptoptila jamaicensis*). These duly nested and young squabs were hatched out, but both parents would brood the young together and the young birds eventually crawled over the sides of the nest and were picked up dead. They then started nesting again and one day the hen landed right on the top of a Zebra Finch's nest—the hen Zebra Finch and her eggs came out through the bottom of the nest and the Violet Dove remained on the top, apparently well satisfied, for, after adding to and re-arranging the nest, a clutch of eggs was duly deposited and incubation duties are now steadily going forward.

DIAMOND DOVES (*Geopelia cuneata*). This charming and minute species has done fairly well, two nice young birds are on the wing, and the parent birds are incubating another clutch of eggs.

AUSTRALIAN CRESTED PIGEONS (*Ocyphaps lophotes*). Another beautiful species, which have just laid with me for the first time, and I hope young birds will follow in due course.

BAR-SHOULDERED DOVES (*Geopelia humeralis*). These have constructed a nest, but at present have not laid.

MASKED OR CAPE DOVES (*Æna capensis*). These are now in beautiful condition, and look like nesting. They had two clutches of eggs in 1912, but, nothing was hatched out.

SCALY DOVE (*Scardafella squamosa*). These, though in good condition, have made no attempt to nest so far.

I can only hope that the above notes may prove as interesting in the reading as the happenings have proved to me in the course of observing them.

My Aviaries and Birds.

BY W. A. BAINBRIDGE.

Our Editor has asked me to write an account of my aviaries and birds, and although I am only a beginner I have promised to do so.

Last August I commenced to build my first aviary, 20 feet by 10 feet, and of course it had all the faults it could have, not sufficient shelter from the wind, and a most inadequate shed, and, in consequence I lost a fair number of birds. Profiting by experience, I doubled the size of it, boarded up one side and added a new shed, putting in hot water pipes, since when all has gone well and I have lost very few birds.

Not yet satisfied I built another, about 70 feet long by 11 wide, except for a space of 15 feet, where it is 20 feet wide, and about 15 feet high at top of gable; the shed being finished first I used it as a heated bird-room during the winter.

As to breeding results, so far they have not been very great but look like improving now.

Last year I had only a short time, but bred one Zebra Finch, which was a very welcome addition.

January 1st saw four nests in the heated bird-room—Bicheno's (*Stictoptera bichenovi*), and Cuban Finch (*Phonipara canora*), Firefinch (*Lagonosticta senegala*), and Gold-breasted Waxbill (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*), all had eggs, but that is as far as they went.

On January 22nd a young Diamond Sparrow (*Steganopleura guttata*) appeared, very much to my surprise, in the out-door aviary, but it died a week later.

March 2nd saw the parents again with young and three young birds flew on the 24th, fine healthy birds which lived all right. The parents and also another pair in the same aviary now began to build again, one egg was laid and deserted, and this I put under a Bengalese, who hatched and half-reared it, when she died and so I lost the young bird.

The Diamonds then gave up until June 24th or 25th, when both pairs began to build feverishly, using seeding grasses which I had supplied that day for the first time, to try and save the grass in the aviary, and now both pairs are, I believe, incubating.

My next young to leave the nest were Silverbills (*Aidemosyne malabarica*), four young of which flew; the same day the heating apparatus caught fire and in consequence had to be repaired. Although this only took twenty-four hours, all the young died. Four eggs were again laid but proved infertile; then two more, which duly hatched, and the young have now been independent of their parents for some time. There are again young almost due to leave the nest.

Jacarini Finches (*Volatinia jacarini*). I have two pairs of this species one in each aviary, and they are easily my favourite birds, the hen of one pair coming to my feet for spiders and other food. One pair hatched two young on May 11th, which left the nest on the 21st, but, only lived for six days. June 8th saw two more young hatched, which left the nest on the 20th, and are still living, being fed by the cock; the hen began to incubate another clutch of three eggs on the 16th.

The other pair have had two nests, each containing two eggs, both infertile. This pair have built on the ground on both occasions, whilst the other pair have built in a privet bush, three feet from the ground.

Bicheno's Finches (*Sticloptera bichenovi*) have nested four times this year, and at the second attempt hatched out one young chick, which died three days later, but the fourth attempt resulted in two young leaving the nest on June 26th; they were and are very strong on the wing.

June 27th, saw a young Cuban Finch (*Phonipara canora*) flying, this being the first young one to be reared, although they have previously hatched out young and on two other occasions have had eggs.

June 27th, also saw a young Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) leave the nest, and the parents are again incubating. Another pair have eggs. Ruficauda Finches (*Bathilda ruficauda*) hatched out about June 16th (one young bird has since flown, two eggs were infertile), and another pair have eggs.

Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldiæ*). Of these I have four pairs, two pairs of Red-headed in one aviary; and two Red-headed cocks and two Black-headed hens in the other aviary. The Red-heads are incubating clutches of eggs, one of which is almost due to hatch.

I had a pair of Haye's Partridges (*Ammoperdix heyii*), but lost the cock, and being unable to obtain another, gave the hen a Californian Quail as a mate. They soon started to make a nest, and the Partridge laid several eggs, but broke all except three, which I put under a bantam, and she promptly smashed them; she is now incubating six eggs, and I am hoping will treat these properly.

Green Avadavats (*Stictospiza formosa*). I have two pairs and both are nesting, but, I fear one pair have deserted; the other pair I hope may hatch out and rear.

Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*). These have nested and have eggs.

Grey Singing-finches (*Serinus leucopygius*). I have a pair of these in each aviary, one hatched out two young chicks, but the nest collapsed, and the young fell out and were killed. They nested again and are incubating another clutch of eggs. The other pair hatched out four chicks, which lived to be half fledged, when they too, died.

Firefinches (*Lagonosticta senegala*). This species have got as far as eggs five or six times, but, that is all. They are again sitting and I hope for the best!

Grey Waxbills (*Estrilda cinerea*). These have had nest after nest with no result!

Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*). This species have, I think, young in the nest.

I have very few Softbills, but those I have are looking very fit and include: one pair Yellow-winged Sugar-birds (*Cocreba cyanea*), two pairs Indian White-eyes (*Zosterops palpebrosa*), and a pair and one odd bird of Black-chinned Yuhinas (*Yuhina nigrimentum*), the last named are delightful birds, always on the move and are perpetually raising their pseudo crests in the most fascinating manner, and although they do not spend their lives upside-down looking for insects under leaves, like the White Eyes, they are perpetually on the look out for some hapless midge or spider.

These notes, although very rough, and record more of failure than success, may at the same time, serve to show some other beginner, that he must not look for success every time he sees a nest, and, may encourage him by knowing that others are undergoing similar, or worse experiences, than his own, and if such is the case, my object will be achieved.

From All Sources.

WORK OF THE BIRDS.—ENGLAND SAVED FROM FORESTS OF OAKS.

"The disastrous effect on farmers that results from the reckless destruction of birds for so unworthy a purpose as millinery was dealt with by Mr James Buckland in an interesting paper which he read at the Royal Colonial Institute yesterday. Birds, insects, animals, and plants are, of course, constantly striving to increase their numbers, but the creatures that feed on them operate continually to check their increase. Were not birds, for instance, to eat acorns Great Britain would eventually be full of oaks, for all other trees would be crowded out. If every Robin died a natural death in its old age and if its eggs were hatched out, in time every square foot of the United Kingdom would be packed with Robins.

Bird life by reason of its predominating insect diet, is the most indispensable balancing force in Nature. No one can tell what far-reaching results might follow the extermination of a single species of bird, for it is probable that the food preference of each species is so distinctive that no other could exactly fill its place. But for the trees the insects would perish; but for insects the birds would perish, and but for the birds the trees would perish.

A great increase of insects and enormous damage by them invariably follows wholesale destruction of wild bird life In New Zealand, owing to the slaughter of birds, Mr. Buckland has seen countless billions of caterpillars move in a solid mass across cultivated land, devouring every green thing in their march. Even railway trains were stopped by the immensity of the number of these crawling atoms.

At the last six feather sales in London there have been sold the skins of 166,000 Kingfishers. Supposing that each one of these ate—at a very conservative estimate—150 noxious insects daily, over 7,600,000,000 insect pests that ought to have been destroyed by birds were saved in one year. This estimate does not take into account the unrestricted increase of these 7,600,000,000 pests. Every one of these Kingfishers was worth its weight in gold to the human race. Its skin sold for 3½d.!

It has been calculated in the United States that the annual loss caused there by ravages of insect and rodent pests which the birds would exterminate were their working power not reduced, totals a thousand million dollars.

As long as there is a demand for contraband plumage there will be someone ready to supply it. The only remedy is to stop the demand. This the Plumage Bill seeks to do. The Bill proposes to prohibit the sale, hire, or exchange of plumage or skin of any species of wild bird individuals which have had their habitat during the whole or part of the year within any part of his Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom or in any British Protectorate or in the island of Cyprus."—From the *Standard* 14/6/,13, per Rev. G. H. Raynor.

Editorial.

These notes must be very brief owing to the Editor being very pressed, but there are several items worthy of brief notice.

NESTING NOTES: Very many of these are noted elsewhere in this issue, and need not be repeated here.

Dr. G. B. Thwaites writes that he has numerous Zebra Finches, Diamond Doves (second round), and a young Goldfinch that are on the wing: that Cuban Finches have nested several times without tangible result. Meadow Pipits have nested and are incubating a clutch of five eggs.

Dr. M. Amsler informs us that there have been numerous attempts, but that so far, the only definite results are Zebra and Jacarini Finches, Blue-breasted Waxbills, and Great Tits on the wing.

Mr. W. R. Temple informs us that the pair of Indian Grey Tits, which he obtained from Major Horsbrugh's recent consignment have nested in his aviary, eight eggs were laid, but that only one chick was hatched, which at the time of writing (July 7) was nine days old and thriving. This species has not been previously bred in Great Britain, and we congratulate Mr. Temple on the measure of success already attained, and trust that the young bird may be reared to maturity.

GREAT TITS (*Parus major*). Dr. M. Amsler has successfully reared a brood of this species in his Eton aviaries and a detailed description of his success will shortly appear in our pages. We do not know of any previous record of this species having been bred in Great Britain—if any member knows of a previous record will he please notify either the Editor or Business Secretary at once—It would appear that Dr. Amsler is entitled to a medal for successfully breeding this species.

THE MAGAZINE: The Editor asks the indulgence of members concerning this issue, it has been issued under exceptional difficulty; he has been away from home and his books of reference—this also explains its late appearance.

Members are urged to send in copy, not only that our contents may be varied, but that the Hon. Editor's task may be made as light as possible, and all the work not crowded into the last week, as under such conditions, the quality of the contents of the magazine must suffer.

Donations are also needed to the Illustration Fund if the number and quality of the illustrations are to be maintained.

Correspondence

INTEREST AND DISAPPOINTMENT.

Sir.—My Silver-eared Mesias (*Mesia argentauris*) built a nest in late May, laid and steadily incubated a clutch of three eggs; both sexes shared the duties of incubation and relieved each other at regular intervals, and pretty equally bore the burden of the work. The nest is rather massive, constructed of hay, shavings, and a few dead leaves, very neatly fashioned and fastened to the pine branches hammock-wise. It is a deep nest, and the birds almost disappear within it when sitting. On June 20th they hatched out three chicks, which they fed from the crop on mealworms, I was in great hopes of their being reared for all went well for two days, but alas! on the 23rd they were all dead—they were just getting their eyes open and the feather tracts were developing. I saw their parents feeding them just before going to roost on the 22nd. The cock wants to go to nest again, but I rather hope the hen will refuse, she is not very keen on it. As far as I could see they fed the young entirely on mealworms (just as the Pekin Robins did with their brood for the first week) nipping and mashing them in their beaks first. They would not touch green fly or ants' eggs or soft food.

It is very curious how hard they are to rear; so many aviculturists have had broods, and the old birds are so easily kept in health and beauty. The Mesias eggs are like those of the Greenfinch and the Pekin Robin—blue blotched with red.

Next door to the Mesias, the Blue Sugarbirds (*Dacnis cayana)* are (June 8th) building a very dainty little nest of tow and cotton wool. The hen does the work, but the cock follows her everywhere and encourages her with great fervour. They are building in a thick Cypress bough in the flight part of their aviary. These birds are finger tame. Two eggs were laid, enormously large for the size of the bird: long, white, heavily spotted and blotched with red. On the morning of the 19th, I found her dead on the floor of the flight -I suspect apoplexy. Had any young been hatched I meant to try green fly, for the adults are very fond of it, and it appeared a likely food for the young I shall replace her as soon as opportunity offers, but all hopes of breeding the species have gone for this year, and I have lost a charming pet. [Mr. Armstein has had young hatched out on several occasions in his aviaries, but up to the present none have lived to leave the nest, though several have been partially fledged.—Ed].

I have just procured from Major Horsbrugh's Indian consignment a pair of little Black-chinned Yuhinas, and very jolly little folk they are too, though in poor feather, having been much plucked by Zosterops, which were in the same cage. Also a Tickell's Flower-pecker, the most minute and greediest little bird I have ever seen; the Purple Sunbird looks quite large by the side of him.

I have also recently acquired a nice pair of Rainbow Buntings (*Cyanospiza leclancheri*), which seem healthy so far. They partake freely of mealworms, live ants' eggs, spray millet, canary seed, and green food. They are indeed lovely creatures.

Last week I saw something I could scarcely have credited had I not seen it. We have several Barbary Doves flying loose, which come to be fed every night and morning. I saw a cock of these Doves attack and kill a half grown Short-tailed Vole which had come to steal some of the seed scattered for the Doves. The Dove pecked it again and again with great fury, and when it was dead stood bowing and cooing over the corpse for several minutes. Has such a thing ever occurred before? [I do not remember a similar case applying to Doves, but, some years ago a cock Yellow Bunting in my aviary drove a full grown Short-tailed Vole out of the seed hopper pouncing upon it with beak and claws, not desisting till the affrighted Vole had fled from the aviary. Ed].

The Purple Sunbird is carrying nesting material, and the Yellow-winged Sugarbirds and Red (Hooded) Siskins are displaying and courting.

(Miss) ETHEL F. CHAWNER.

Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants.,
June 8th, 20th, and 24th, 1913.

HODDAM CASTLE AVIARIES.

Sir—My Purple Sunbirds are sitting (June 15th); the Purple Sunbirds are incubating steadily (June 19th).

My Occipital Blue-Pies nested and laid, but I found the male was eating the eggs and I removed him. The hen laid another egg which proved fertile and a chick was hatched out, which she promptly swallowed!

E. J. BROOK.

[I have taken the liberty of extracting the above from three letters dated June 15th, 19th, and 21st, which had not been penned for publication. —Ed].

TO PRESERVE FROM EXTINCTION.

Sir,—I should be very glad to know if any member of the Foreign Bird Club is at present in possession of a cock Turquoisine Grass Parrakeet. I happen to have a hen of this species in good condition and last autumn I saw a cock which may be still alive in this country.

As this lovely little bird appears to be on the very verge of extinction, it seems a pity that if a cock and hen should still be left in Great Britain some attempt should not be made to breed from them. If the owner of the cock—assuming it to be alive were to communicate with me, I think we might possibly be able to make some satisfactory arrangement. In case of anyone being in possession of a Turquoisine without being aware of its identity—which of is course, very improbable—I may describe it roughly as being about a third less in size than a Cockatiel, green in colour, with the forehead, cheeks and part of the wings blue; there is a small chestnut patch on the wing-coverts.

(LORD) TAVISTOCK.

Woburn Abbey, Beds. June 16th, 1913.

STRAY NOTES 1913.

Sir,– I have young Zebra Finches and Budgerigars on the wing, but so has nearly everyone else and I only mention them *en passant.*

BULLFINCHES: These went to nest in the out-door aviary and on May 24th, the first egg was laid, but they broke it, so I gave her a pot egg; on the 25th, 26th and 27th, other eggs were laid, taken away and replaced by pot eggs, the last got broken and I then gave her back her own eggs, she sat well, but when she came off to feed on the 29th, other birds broke the eggs. She built another nest inside the shelter, but the cock became so vicious I had to take them out of the general aviary and put them into a smaller adjoining one; this enclosure contained a pair of Japanese Hawfinches which I thought were quite able to look after themselves. The cocks fought and in consequence the Hawfinch is now dead and the Bullfinch anything but fit. The hen Bullfinch is now (June 22nd.) sitting on eggs and I hope young will be reared this time.

BULBULS: My Red-eared Bulbul mated to a cock Black Bulbul, laid her first egg on May 12th, in a thrush's nest fixed in a cage, 4½ feet long by 4 feet high, also containing Shamahs, Cardinals etc She covered in the nest, leaving an entrance hole in one side and laid three eggs, one got broken almost at once and another the 12th day; on the 14th day she deserted, and I gave the remaining egg away. She has since laid three more eggs, but as she was sitting very irregularly I gave one to the Bulfinch and two to a Greenfinch both of which are incubating, but I doubt the fertility of the eggs.

SHAMAHS AND VIRGINIAN CARDINALS: These occupied the cage with the Bulbuls and both pairs have mated, the cock Shamah has commenced to construct a nest, but they disturb each other, and for lack of accommodation I cannot separate them, so I doubt there being any result.

CHAFFINCH X CANARY: These birds had frequently paired and on April 1st, the first egg was laid, followed in due course by four others—a Siskin ate two, two were infertile and one was filled but did not hatch out. On May 27th, pairing again took place and in due course a clutch of four eggs was deposited. none of them hatched out, two being infertile and two addled.

RED-HEADED FINCH X CUTTHROAT: On May 31st, four chicks of this cross were hatched out. On June 4th, one picked up dead in flight and the other three doing well. About June 16th, one young hybrid had the Red band on the throat and red on the forehead, the other two are hens. On June 20th they left the nest and on the 22nd were quite strong on the wing and very pretty birds. The two hens are not alike, one having scarcely any markings on the breast. The red on the head is not very strong as yet in the young cock, but the red band on the throat is very rich and deep, and is thick all across, not having tapering ends as in the cock Cutthroat; his breast markings are not so distinct as those of the Red-headed Finch, but he may differ materially after the moult. I had to supply mealworms liberally, as while they were feeding young, the Red-headed Finch would eat more than a dozen and then go straight away and feed its babies by regurgitating the mealworms it had eaten.

CUTTHROATS: On June 5th a brood was hatched, but hearing very little noise I examined the nest on the 10th and found only one chick alive and the nest extremely odorous. Put in fresh hay and returned the chick, its parents fed it almost at once and now (June 22nd) it is feathering fast.

I have too many birds for my accommodation and fear my breeding results must be very small as I have to keep so many kinds together.

(Miss) ALFREDA B. SMYTH.

Catford, S.E., June 22nd, 1913.

MY FIRST SEASON.

Sir.—In response to your enquiry I have pleasure in stating that, though I have nothing very rare, all my birds are doing well, and that there appears prospects of some success. Losses have been very few and the birds seem fairly well established.

At present I have in the aviary: pairs of Californian Quail, Zebra and Ribbon Finches, Bengalese, White and Grey Java Sparrows, Grey Singingfinches, Combasous, White- and Black-headed Mannikins, Spice Birds, and Red-billed Weavers; Golden-breasted, Common, and Orange-cheeked Waxbills; and Common and Green Avadavats The above I purchased, and below I give a few notes from my log book concerning them,

April 9—Opened the aviary by putting in one pair Californian Quail.
„ 13—Put in pairs of Zebra and Ribbon Finches, and Bengalese.
„ 20—Put in pairs of Combasous, Spice Birds, Grey Javas, and Grey Singingfinches.
„ 23—Discovered Zebra Finches had two eggs in a rush nest.
„ 25—Bird escaped from aviary but returned.
„ 27—Snow storm, followed by gale and thunder storm—all birds well.
„ 29—Ribbon Finches have nested and laid two eggs. Zebra Finches started incubating five eggs (believed).
May 2—Observed contrary to what I have read that the Zebra Finch cock does *not* sleep in the nest with the hen.
„ 4—Put in pairs of White- and Black-headed Mannikins.
„ 10—Put in pairs of Golden-breasted Waxbills and White Java Sparrows.
„ 11—Zebra Finches hatched out three young ones. Riboon Finches have commenced to incubate.
„ 13—Discovered nine Quail eggs at the back of a hay rack.
„ 20—Californian Quail commence to incubate.
„ 23—Although the young are only 12 days old the Zebra Finches are building again in a rush nest near the old one. Ribbon Finches hatched three young.
„ 26—Zebra Finch hen has deserted the young and laid two eggs in the new nest. Cock bird is feeding the young alone.
„ 30—Three young Zebra Finches flew to-day.
„ 31—Discovered Bengalese have a nest with two eggs.
June 1—Ribbon Finches threw out and killed one nestling.
„ 2—Ribbon Finches threw out remaining two nestlings.
„ 3—Zebra Finches and Bengalese commenced incubating.
„ 9—Fifteen Californian Quail chicks hatched off, both birds fiercely attacked me when I went to feed them.
„ 10—The Bengalese eggs have mysteriously disappeared.

„ 15—Zebra Finches hatched out three young (believed three). Noted Ribbon Finches had new nest containing three eggs.
„ 17—Ribbon Finches commenced to incubate again.
„ 20—Bengalese have three eggs
„ 21—Bengalese commenced to incubate.
„ 22—Spice Birds nesting in rush nest.
„ 24—Added to aviary one pair each Orange-cheeked Waxbills, Common and Green Avadavats, Common African Waxbills, and Red-billed Weavers.
„ 28—Ribbon Finches hatched out five young. Spice Birds have two eggs.

It was the reading of "Aviaries and Aviary Life" which finally decided me to start an outside aviary and my anticipations have been more than realised. My experience of keeping birds in the house has not been a happy one—I bought sixteen birds of various kinds and within two months eleven of them were dead; of the two surviving pairs, the hen of one pair laid seven eggs and ate them all, and the hen of the other pair laid twelve shell-less eggs, each time all but succumbing to egg-binding. Since putting them out both the above pairs have hatched out two broods of young. Further as will be seen from above I have bought some of the fragile Waxbills and put them straight out of doors (Yorkshire) with no ill effects, in fact I have not lost a bird of any kind, though the weather here has been very unfavourable. I may say that I fear I have an egg-eater in the aviary as I have lost three clutches of eggs and I suspect a Combasou as it is always peeping into nests. Incidentally, neither of my Weavers show any signs of coming into colour, isn't it time? About two weeks ago my Grey Singing Finch, which up to then had not sung a note, started to sing magnificently and now sings all day on and off. It puts a Canary absolutely in the shade.

W. O. MONTGOMERY

Hornsea, Yorks., June 28/,13.

MY BIRDS.

Sir,—In answer to your enquiry re my birds, I hope the following will be of some general interest. I am faced with a difficulty—How shall I start? When I say that I have handled from a Black Cockatoo down to wee Sunbird, it gives one some experience of birds and bird life.

PARRAKEETS: When it comes to handling Parrakeets and Lovebirds it means many bites and nasty words. "Friars Balsam" is very good for bites, but it is better to avoid them, either by a thick cloth or gloves, the former is the best. I will commence with the Queen Alexandras (*Spathopterus alexandræ*): to my mind there is no Parrakeet to compare with this lovely species; by the fuss they are making I have great hopes of the advent of young birds a little later.

RED-RUMPS (*Psephotus haematorhous*) have nested and incubated a clutch of eggs, but the eggs proved infertile; they are now nesting again Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*), and Black-faced Lovebirds (*A. nigrigenis*) are doing their best, but no tangible results so far.

I have one pair of Blue Budgerigars, also a hen Blue paired with a cock Green, the latter bred from Blue and Green parents ; these at present are very interested in each other and the nest-husks, but there are no eggs yet.

I also have Passerine (*Pssittacula passerina*), Stanley (*Platycercus icterotis*), and Many coloured (*Psophotus multicolour*), also Grey-headed Lovebirds (*Agapornis cana*) in the Parrakeet aviary.

The Finch Aviary: Here I have Red and Black-headed Gouldian Finches, Rosefinches, Firefinches, and Cordon Bleus ; Lavender, Cuba, and Olive Finches ; Indian White-eyes, and Pekin Robins ; also Violet-eared, Blue-breasted and Golden breasted Waxbills and last but not least Zebra Finches.

I must mention my Black-chinned Yuhinas (*Yuhina nigrimentum*), for they are most interesting mites and very like minature cockatoos, when startled or excited they raise their crest, they are very quaint and one wishes they might nest.

Of course losses, annoying and dispiriting losses, occur, but these one must look upon philosophically and treat as the sportive side of the Fancy.

Gouldian, Cuba, Zebra, Olive, Lavender and Fire Finches are all nesting and I hope there will be good results from their efforts.

One naturally hopes and longs for good nesting results, often one does not get much farther, so I suppose I must do as the boy did who kept bantams – Not being satisfied with the size of the eggs he hung up an Ostrich's egg in the pen with the following notice "Keep your eye on this and do your best."

(MISS) LYDIA CLARE.

Wimbledon, S.W., July 4, 1913.

Members' Meetings at the Zoo.

A very pleasant meeting of members was held at the Zoo on Saturday, June 21st. The weather was very fine which helped to make the occasion a most enjoyable one. The various aviaries were visited and a plentiful supply of mealworms made it possible for us to make a close acquaintance with many very interesting birds. The Laughing Jackasses joined in chorus at our approach to their aviary, the result being rather weird to say the least. The Kagu was persuaded to give its quaint display. The birds in the Western Aviary were of great interest and all appeared to be doing exceedingly well. Those in the Small Birds' House, however, appeared to be mostly soft in condition and dull in manner, and it was generally remarked that the close stuffy atmosphere of the house was apparently the cause of this. We felt it a relief when we passed out into the open air, the contrast being most marked.

The following were present during the course of the day:—

Lady Webster.
Mrs. E. A. Hartley.
Mrs. E. D. Lee.
Mrs. Chiozza Money.
Miss Money.
Mrs. & Miss Stoney.
Miss A. Eccles.
Miss M. Knobel.

Major G. A. Perreau.
Captain J. Sherard Reeve.
L. G. Chiozza Money, Esq., M.P.
A. Ezra. Esq.
Wesley T. Page, Esq.
W. T. Rogers, Esq.
S. Williams, Esq.

Tea was served in the Fellows' Enclosure, and was made an occasion for a free interchange of ideas on matters—avicultural and ornithological. The meeting was greatly enjoyed by all.

W. T. ROGERS.

The previous meeting in May was favoured with beautiful weather, and all present expressed the interest that the avicultural talk and the "doing" of the birds in company had been to them. Among those present were the following:—Mrs. E. A. Hartley, Mrs. and Miss Stoney, Miss Knobel, Rev. J. Paterson, and Messrs. J. L. Grossmith, N. S. O'Reilly, W. T. Page, S. Williams, H. Goodchild, etc.—Ed.

Further meetings will be held on:

Thursday, July 24th, *rendezvous* Small Birds' House, at 11-15 a.m. and 2-30 p.m.

Saturday, August 16th, *rendezvous* Small Birds' House, at 2-30 p.m.

If any intimate a desire to be present during the morning of August 16th, they will be met at the Small Birds' House if they notify Mr. W. T. Rogers by August 14th.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that Members from all round the coast will note the movements of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes— **on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.**—Ed.

The Cuckoo: Has the Cuckoo deserted everybody as early this year as he has me. The Cuckoo is a particular friend of mine, each year I look forward to his coming and lament his going. This year for the first time in my life I never heard him in June at all. I went to town on May 28th, and returned on June 3rd, and I have never heard him since. I have noticed the last few years he has commenced later and later, and left off earlier and earlier and I wonder if any one else has observed this. Twice in my life I have heard him on April 6th, and that is the earliest, this year I did not hear him till April 20th. In an old pocket book I came across the other day was the entry: "July 3rd, Cuckoo came to bid me goodbye." I do not think I ever heard him later than that, but for years past now, not at all during the last fortnight in June even.

Report for the three months ending June 30th, from the North Unst. Lighthouse:

April 1—1 Robin and flock of Starlings
,, 2—1 Redwing and 1 Chaffinch.
,, 4—First Great Skua for season.
,, 18—Razorbills and Guillemot's on Cliffs, also 4 Sparrows.
,, 19—Puffins landed on Rock.
,, 19—1 Blackbird (female) *a rare visitor here.*
,, 19—1 Richardson's Skua.
,, 24—1 Wheatear.
,, 24—2 Lesser-backed Gulls.
,, 20—1 Glaucous Gull.
May 4—1 Swallow and 2 Wheatears.
,, 4—2 Common Gulls.
,, 9—1 Redstart (male) seen till 12th
,, 11—1 Robin and 2 Whimbrel.
,, 13—1 Common Sandpiper.
,, 16—Fulmer commenced incubation.
,, 17—1 Swallow.
,, 18—6 Turnstones.
,, 18—Pipers,
,, 18—Kittiwakes commenced building.
,, 18—Great Black-back Gulls nest with three eggs (first for season).
,, 20—1 Whimbrel and 1 Wheatear.
,, 22—1 Swallow.
,, 25—Oystercatchers nest with 1 egg.
June 14—Chaffinches.

Per D.E.P., July 6th, 1913.

ERRATUM: In May issue of "B.N.," a similar report was given, into which crept an unfortunate error: "North Uist Lighthouse," should read NORTH UNST LIGHTHOUSE.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules (See Page iii of Cover.)

GOULDIAN FINCH. (Mrs. Hartley, Hastings). Cause of death, hæmorrhage on the brain.

GOULDIAN FINCH (♀), (P. H. Sellars, Edinburgh). Cause of death, pneumonia.

LAVENDER FINCH (♂). (The Hon. Mary Hawke, Tadcaster). Cause of death, a septicaemia.

HARDWICK'S CHLOROPSIS. (Mrs. Connell, Hants.) The bird was too fat and no doubt its death arose from heart failure from fatty degeneration of the heart muscle.

YOUNG BUDGERIGAR. (Miss Barnaby, Southampton). Cause of death, enteritis.

BLUE SUGAR-BIRD. (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, a septicaemia.

BLUE SUGAR-BIRD. (Miss E F. Chawner, Lyndhurst). No doubt the cause of death was convulsions.

CORDON BLEU (♂). (G. E. Haggie, Oxford). Cause of death, enteritis.

HARTZ CANARY (♂). (Miss Muriel Maxwell Jackson). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Answered by post—Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Turner-Turner, G. E. Haggie, Miss Eccles.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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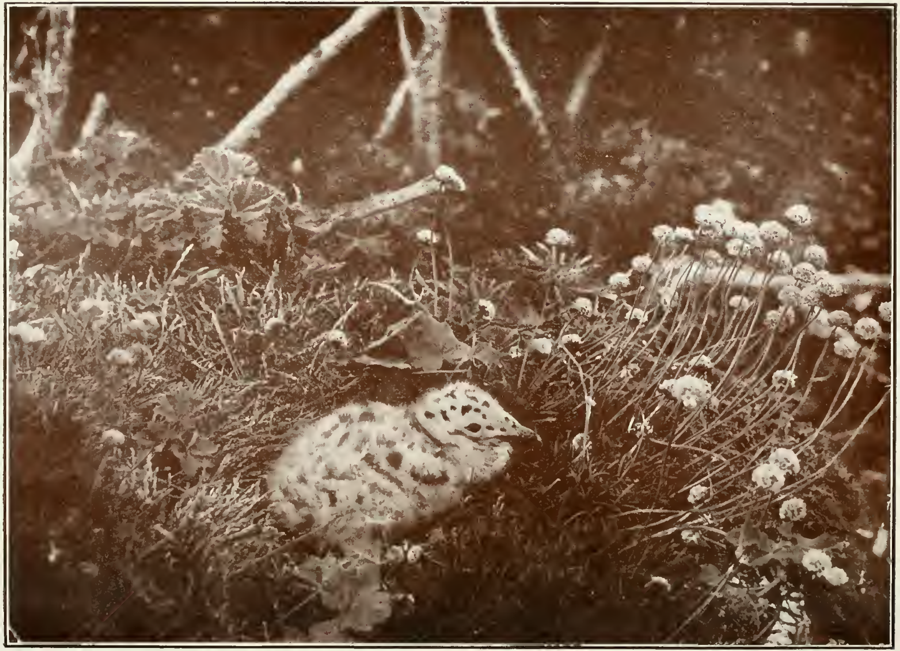
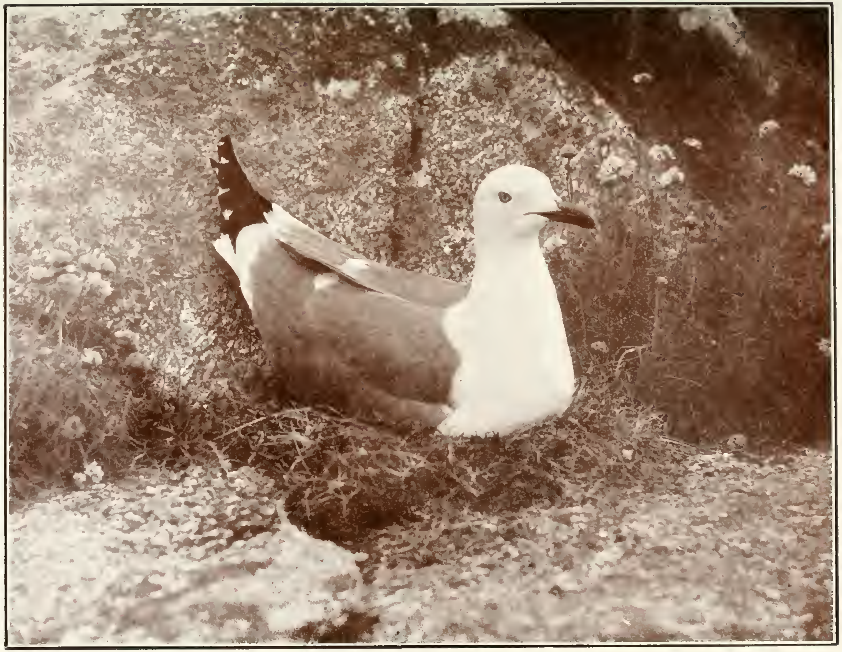


Young Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Photo by H. Willford



Lesser Black-backed Gull Incubating.

Photo by H. Willford

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Some Interesting Birds.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S. ILLUSTRATED FROM LIFE, BY H. WILLFORD,

(*Continued from page* 213).

THE LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). The four beautiful photographs illustrating these notes were taken by Mr. Willford, this season, at Taen, Island of Scilly, and figure four episodes in the domestic life of this species.

Gulls live chiefly over or near the water, they are not diving-birds, and their food consists of *live* fish only in part—in fact they are practically omnivorous—their diet may be said to cover small live surface fish, dead fish which float on the water, molluscs, crustaceans, worms, caterpillars, mice, moles, etc., while some of the species take the eggs and young of moorland-game and water-fowl; grain also is taken to some extent. The indigestible portions of their food are ejected in the form of large pellets.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull is a beautiful bird (the same may be said of all Gulls) and one of the most attractive and loveliest scenes of spectacular avifauna is a group of these birds foraging for their food on their feeding grounds, hovering above the water, or their domestic life on or about their nests. How beautiful are the pure hues and the usually spotless condition of their plumage!

Description: In summer the plumage is pure glistening white, except for the mantle and wings, which are blackish-grey; the first three primaries have an oval white spot at the tip, the secondaries and scapulars are tipped with white; bill and feet yellow. In winter the head and neck are much streaked with brown.

The nestling is greyish-white mottled with brown, primaries have no white spots, and the bill and feet are dusky.

This species is pretty generally distributed around our coasts, and also in the Baltic, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the coasts of North America. Notable nesting places are the coasts of Devon, Cornwall, Wales, Isle of Man, Scotland, and Ireland. I may specially mention *en passant* the settlements on the Scilly Isles (where our illustrations were taken), Farne Islands, the Northern Shetlands and the Outer Hebrides. In Ireland this species nests both on the coasts, and near inland lakes, but the former position is the most common. Rocky Islands and steep cliffs are its favourite nesting sites.

The nest is rather a large one, constructed of seaweed, grass stalks, and a few twigs, with a slight hollow or cup for the eggs (*see photo*).

The eggs, three in number, vary considerably, the ground colour being mostly buff, blue, or green, and either spotted and lined all over, or only at the larger end of the egg. Size 2.8 by 1.9

It has been many years since I visited a Gull-colony, but the memory is ever with me and I certainly envy my friend, Mr. H. Willford, his experiences in the Scilly Isles this season.

As I pen these notes, I live over again the experiences of the past, and the impressions recalled may well find a place here.

The noisy, busy life of a breeding colony is apparently continuous. The apparent oneness of the mated pairs, the complete sharing of the duties of domestic life by both sexes, and their absorption in the one business of life, viz., the reproduction of their kind—the many pleasing episodes which go to make up the above, how they appeal to the bird lover: during incubation, when the time comes for relieving each other comes round—the mate of the incubating bird is always near, for after foraging and feeding it always returns to the neighbourhood of the nest, and sits near it—how carefully the sitting bird rises and appears to examine the eggs (*see photos*), and with like care the other takes its place, apparently examining and turning the eggs before settling down to incubation. Then again, such scenes are repeated as they "change guard" while brooding the young; how tender and solicitous appears to be their care of their brood; how interesting to watch the returning bird alight near the nest, then pausing in front of its progeny, calmly disgorg the contents of its crop on the ground before them and as patiently as a clucking hen, teaching them (in the early stages) how to pick up and feed. And what apt pupils they are; but few lessons being needed. Again, how soon the young learn (or is it instinctive?) to crouch on the ground, at any cause for alarm or consciousness of danger. They become practically invisible as they thus crouch, so perfectly do they harmonise with their environment.

Then again, how sedate and peaceable they are (I now write of respective pairs), how different from many other species of birds we know, with whom sparring and unclassical language is very common, but Gulls have a sedateness and dignity all their own.

Even Londoners are acquainted with Gulls, and appreciate their beauty, as during the winter and early spring they watch and feed the wheeling crowds at the bridges and in the parks. That they do appreciate their great beauty is apparent from the *known* fact that city business boys and girls spend a portion of their meagre lunch allowance in the purchase of food for these beautiful, wild creatures of the air.

Gulls make nice pets and when pinioned, or with the feathers of one wing cut after each moult, they can be left to wander at will about any roomy garden or back yard, they will eat almost anything, but should get some natural food (already stated), and also have a large shallow vessel of some kind to wade about in.

The title at head of these notes is "The Black-backed Gull," but I have also written much of Gulls generally; however my readers will have no difficulty in distinguishing one from the other.

(*To be continued*).

Nesting of the Eagle Owl.

(*Bubo maximus*).

By Miss E. F. Chawner.

The Eagle Owls have succeeded at last! For the last five years the hen has laid two clutches and incubated them until spontaneous combustion removed them. Two years ago she had a fertile egg, and by a sad mischance it was broken a couple of days before it was due to hatch. Therefore this spring, when I found her again on her nest, I merely remarked "poor old lady," and beyond supplying the cock with the special titbits for his wife which he expects while she is engaged in the nursery, I thought no more about her. Time went on, the hen had sat her full eight weeks and I began to expect the usual finale, when my suspicions were aroused by the rapidity with which the food disappeared. The birds eat next to nothing while breeding and make up for it during the moult and autumn, but now the cock never wearied of taking in supplies, and the hen frequently uttered the special clucking call which means "bring food at once and plenty of it." Could it be? I made up my mind to find out. This was easier said than done. Eagle Owls are not lightly coerced, and nothing would induce the hen to come off the nest while I was anywhere within view. At last I hit upon a plan. I kept her waiting an hour or two beyond the usual feeding time and only brought round her food when she began to call urgently for it. Then instead of giving it to the cock for her I offered it myself, dangling it above her head as she squatted. She stood up and stretched to reach the dainty (a large field vole) and I caught sight of an extremely addled egg and a young bird probably two or three days old. Its mother took the vole, crunched it, and putting her head down, fed her baby without paying any attention to me; afterwards the cock brought her a young rabbit with which she busied herself. I did not see the young one again for nearly a week, when it had grown greatly and was evidently thriving.

On the 15th of May its mother moved it into the outer part of the aviary where the cock had prepared a fresh scrape which served as a day nursery. This was particularly interesting to me, as it explained why the cock had always dug this second place about ten days after the hen had given up sitting, and seemed so anxious for her to occupy it. Hitherto I supposed that he wanted her to go to nest again, but now I see it is part of the routine of bringing up the young.

Nothing more of importance occurred until the 20th, when I saw the owlet very intently watching its mother break up and prepare a young rabbit, evidently receiving instruction; it profited so well by its lesson that five days later when strolling about the aviary, it picked up and gulped down the whole hind leg of a young rabbit. No wonder it grew!

Its quills were showing through the thick down which enveloped it and it followed its mother about the aviary, but did not leave the ground until June 10th, when it scrambled to the top of a big stump and perched there for several hours. By the 18th it could fly to the highest perch and was practically independent, though its mother still controlled and watched over it, and its father still carried food to them both.

Up to this time the old birds had shown themselves unexpectedly amiable and made no objection to my entering the aviary, but now the hen became savage. She took to hissing and snapping and erecting her feathers as soon as she heard me and if I came in while the young one was visible she flew at me viciously. The cock never took part in these hostilities, but looked on placidly from his perch, and occasionally hooted to the enraged lady below as much as to say, "my dear, pray calm yourself." This was fortunate for me, for I should have found it difficult to tackle both birds had they set on me together. Of course, I did not intrude more than was unavoidable, but a certain amount of sanitation is necessary especially in hot weather, and it would be a mistake to let the hen think that I am afraid of her, so I persevered, choosing as far as I could those times when the babe had retired, in order to spare its mothers feelings as much as possible. These tactics answered pretty well and as the Owlet is now (July 1st) launched into the world and as tall (though not as thick) as its father, and furnished with most formidable claws and beak, its mother though still guarding it, has somewhat relaxed, and I think as she moults will gradually lose her interest in it. She has certainly done her work well.

These splendid birds carry out a strict system of labour, when nesting, each taking its part and keeping to it. The cock digs the "scrape" in a place (usually the same every year) approved if not chosen by the hen. Once she begins to lay she remains on the nest, only coming off for a hurried stretch once in the twenty-four hours, usually about dusk; sometimes she indulges in a bath, but whatever she may be doing she hastens back to her eggs the moment she hears or sees any one approaching. The cock meanwhile sits on a high perch, keeping a look out; his business is to keep the larder supplied, and he carries everything edible that he can collect straight to the nest. If the hen does not want it at once he lays it beside her and returns to his post. When young are hatched his exertions are redoubled, and one can easily see how these great Owls must harry the countryside when they are in a state of nature. The hen meanwhile takes entire charge of the young and will fight anything in their defence. Most formidable she must appear to any prowling fox or dog when she stands over her young hissing and snapping, all her feathers puffed out and her orange eyes glaring, ready to launch herself at the enemy and fix her terrible talons in his flesh. Even in the cramped quarters of an aviary with her instincts dulled by captivity, and a never failing supply of food, her courage is undeniable and she is not to be trifled with. She prepares the food and teaches the young how to tear it, she moves them to their day nursery and hustles them back to concealment at the approach of real or fancied danger. The young feed themselves and fly well when about six weeks old but their parents guard and tend them for fully three months, by which time their "down" has given way to adult plumage.

Breeding of the Great-Tit *(Parus major)* in Captivity.

By Dr. Maurice Amsler.

Having noticed that none of the genus *Parus* had been bred in captivity, I determined early this year to try my luck with the Blue-Tit and Great-Tit. My attempts with the former, a cage-moulted prize-winning pair were not successful, but I succeeded in rearing the Great-Tit from a freshly caught pair of this species. Being unable to buy a pair of *Parus major* through the usual sources I profited by a few days holiday in Hertfordshire, and caught a couple pretty quickly in a home-made trap. These two birds although a pair, were obviously not mated, for when placed together in a cage, the hen soon began to make her would-be spouse's feathers fly. The following day (April 18th) I liberated the male bird, and by using the hen as a decoy was able to capture the gentleman of her choice, for when put together there was no sign of disagreement.

I had always understood that Great-Tits were much harder to meat off than the Blue-Tit, but these birds never looked sick nor sorry on a diet of sunflower seed and meal-worms.

On returning to Eton on April the 21st, I turned the birds out into a small aviary 9ft. x 3ft. x 10ft. high, and and provided them with a Berlepsch nesting log, which I had sawn in half, and hinged for purposes of inspection. At first my Tits were extraordinarily wild for such impudent and confiding birds, but a fortnight later I thought I saw the hen bird carrying and on looking into the box I found about a handful of moss at the bottom of the cavity.

Each night the hen slept in the log, the male mounting guard in a small travelling cage nailed up a few feet above the log.

On May 10th (3 weeks from their capture), a neat cup shaped nest had been built, composed entirely of fine moss, and lined with hair or fluff obtained from a piece of coarse, felt, and the first egg was laid. Six more eggs were laid on successive days, but incubation only started in earnest after the second egg.

As far as my observation goes the male took no part or interest in the building, and certainly not in incubation. The latter lasted 13 days, and not once during this time did I see the hen off her nest, though I looked into the log on two occasions to make sure she was in the land of the living.

What food she had was given her by the cock, unless perhaps she left her eggs in the early hours of the morning.

On May 28th the hen made her first re-appearance into the world, and suspecting that she had hatched I took a quick look into the box and found five chicks. On the following day one more had put in an appearance; the seventh egg had disappeared. The young birds were a dark brown colour, with black down on head and back.

And now began what for the cock must have been hard labour, from early morn till almost dark he devoted himself to the feeding of his off-spring. For the first day or two he merely flew to the entrance hole and only half disappeared, his tail at any rate always being visible; as the log was quite 9 inches deep it was obvious that he was only "handing" the food to his mate, who in her turn fed the young she was brooding.

This order of things, however, gradually changed, for as the hen left the nest more and more frequently to help the male in collecting food, the latter took the opportunity of exploring the depth of the nursery, and feeding the chicks himself. During the whole time he did by far the greater share of foraging, and was a model which many a cock of more peaceful and better tempered species might well copy.

I was so struck by his devotion that on June 3rd I opened the door of the aviary and stood by with my heart in my mouth. He hopped out and then flew straight out of sight. "Good-bye," thought I, kicking myself metaphorically for my trustfulness. Not for long was I kept in suspense, for a few minutes later I heard his call note in a neighbouring tree, and down he swooped on to the roof of the aviary. He had a little difficulty in finding his way in, but once this difficulty was overcome he had no further trouble; his mate soon followed him but was not quite so quick in finding the aviary door. After an hour of their liberty I took the opportunity of both birds being in the aviary together, to close the door for the night.

On several occasions after this I let the birds out to forage for themselves, but obviously no insect provided by nature is so pleasing as the mealworm; both birds, but especially the male, followed me, and other members of the household, all over the garden, in the hope of getting the longed-for morsel. So insistent did the male become that we could call him from the aviary to the house, quite 30 yards, and he would come into a roomful of strangers, hop on to a chair and help himself to mealworms placed there in a dish.

I could never quite persuade him to take food from my hand, but he would help himself if I dropped the bait at my feet, or even on to my boot..

On June 9th, the young were well quilled, but still showed a good deal of down on heads and back.

So far the food, apart from insects caught at liberty consisted entirely of gentles, mealworms, and live ants' eggs; but now the parent birds began to use York cheese and suet.

On June 11th, the young being fairly well feathered I closed the aviary for good.

On June 16th, four young had left the nest, and another chick followed them on the 17th, the sixth I found dried up in the nest many days later. The general colour of the young birds was, back olive green, chest and under part, yellowish green, head, and pectoral streak dark grey; flights dark grey. The white wing-bar so clearly seen in adult birds was visible in the nest at 11 days of age.

On June 18th, all five were lusty and strong on the wing, but by evening, one had died; on the 19th two more were looking seedy and preferred sitting on the ground to perching, and by the 28th I was left with one youngster only, who fortunately was very active and forward.

By the 25th he could eat suet, York cheese, and "soft-food," and seemed quite as independent as his parents, whom he equalled in size.

As I wanted the aviary for other birds I liberated the birds on June 30th, but left the aviary door open for a few days, they often returned but were never so confiding as in former days when there were six happy youngsters to feed.

I have ringed all the birds and shall be interested to see whether they are still amongst the birds who come here for food in the cold days of winter.

The rearing of these birds, although not a noteworthy fact, is instructive, in showing the importance of getting mated birds when possible, for I do not think a strange cock and hen would have settled down so quickly. It also brings home a fact, with which we are all familiar, the extreme confidence of captive birds when feeding young; perhaps, the fact that all three birds returned several times to the aviary after liberation at a season when there is abundance of food outside might pacify a few of the less rabid "humanitarians."

Holiday Notes from Eastbourne.

By S. Williams, F.Z.S.

To those of our members who take an interest in the avifauna of the district in which they live, or are spending a holiday, as well as the inhabitants of their cages or aviaries, the following notes may prove acceptable reading. Having recently spent a short holiday in the above town, I will give a short account of the birds I met during one of my walks. I am not going to classify them genealogically, but will mention them as they came before my notice. My host, having kindly lent me a pair of field glasses, I set forth on a ramble across Beachy Head and returned by an inland route. Starting from the pier, the first bird to be seen was not our cheery little friend the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), but the Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*), half a dozen of which at least, were proclaiming their presence on the top of the houses with their not unpleasant caw. Keeping along the beach I walked on the sands to Burling Gap. I saw some Sparrows, Common Gulls, and one Cormorant, unless I was mistaken, the last mentioned being some distance away. Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were flying about in large numbers, many nests being in the cliffs; some more Jackdaws also with nests and some Sand Martins (*Cotile riparia*). Having reached Burling Gap, I met a coastguard and had a chat with him, and having walked five miles over shingles and boulders under a summer sun, I was not long in accepting his offer of some bathing "togs." I was soon in the warm briny and felt much refreshed with my bathe. Having rested and enjoyed a pipe I made my way to the Gap Hotel and was soon doing justice to my lunch—nothing beats good home-made bread and cheese and a tankard of good English ale. In the bar were a number of stuffed birds and animals, most of them having fallen to the gun of the proprietor. A young Black-backed Gull shot flying with some Wild Geese. and a Golden Plover shot on the cliff, a Barn Owl, a Diver, and other sea birds; also a fine Badger taken close by were among the collection. Having lunched and refilled my pipe, I went inland, and finding a nice shady seat by a thicket of brambles spent an hour watching the bird life around me. Not far away I soon saw a fine Missel Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) and also some Song Thrushes (*T. musicus*), all foraging for food, evidently for their families. The Blackbird (*Merula merula*) was to be met with here in great numbers and often spoilt your chance of getting a closer view of other birds by his warning cry. Daintily tripping about the mossy ground were numerous Hedge Accentors (*Accentor modularis*), commonly known as the Hedge Sparrow; these birds have a very pleasing little song. I had a nestling a year ago and he sang well in a cage. In the spring a little lady of his species, which could always be found near my bird-house captured his heart and I gave him his freedom and was rewarded by seeing him a proud father. There are many now frequently to be seen by my aviary.

On a gorse bush some Linnets (*Acanthis cannabina*), were singing gaily. What a treat to hear them pouring forth melody in freedom, and how different also do they look when you see them in a tiny cage behind the glass of a bird shop window! A flock of Greenfinches (*Chloris vulgaris*) flew over and one fine male settled and some of his notes were very musical, quite good enough to be called a song. Flitting about above the ground, some distance away(I now had to bring my glasses into use). I saw five Stonechats (*Pratincola rubicola*), three cocks and two hens. What bright lively little fellows they are. I always think it a pity to cage them; You must see them at liberty to appreciate their graceful movements. I now proceed, as our American friends would say, to get a move on me and came across three Whitethroats (*Sylvia cinerea* and *S. curruca*), Greater and Lesser, creeping about among the brambles in search of insects. A number of Chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), Yellow Buntings (*Emberiza citrinella*), more Linnets and Greenfinches, Rooks, and Jackdaws. Overhead a hawk was hovering, but not being well up in these birds I cannot say for certain which it was, probably a Sparrow-Hawk or Kestrel. A few yards from me a Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa grisola*) was keeping watch for all stray flies, etc., and incessantly darted to and fro, catching them. On some freshly ploughed ground were Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla lugubris*) running about, one of the gems of the bird world, graceful to the highest degree. Overhead, Swifts, Swallows and House Martins, were showing aviators how flying should be done, and many Larks could be heard pouring forth their delightful song. To some a lark is just a bird, to me it is one of the most marvellous of living creatures. Soaring almost out of sight, and even with the exertion of flying, it pours forth at the same time a flood of melody our greatest singers might well envy. Further along the road I noticed some Warblers, Willow, I think, but something alarmed them, and I had not time to identify them, about here a Wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*) popped out on to a gate post, a perky little fellow, with tail erect, poured forth a challenge, at least so I construed it, the volume of song this little chap gives forth is surprising, quite sufficient sound for a bird six times his size. Towards the close of my ramble, I saw creeping topsy turvy about some tree branches, Great Tits (*Parus major*) and also Blue Tits, commonly called Tom-Tits (*Paruscœruleus*); a few Coal Tits (*Parus ater*) I had seen earlier in the day. Being about five o'clock I had to hurry along as we dined at 6-30. Many of the birds I have mentioned I again saw. Crossing a field, on some waste, I saw a Moor-hen (*Gallinula chloropus*), and also a Partridge took flight at my approach. Although nothing rare had been seen, a most enjoyable day had been spent. I hope that other members will take some notes and send along an account of the birds they notice. Surely with our membership, nearly every corner of the British Isles must be visited, and records would be most interesting reading.

* * *

An Island on the River Jhelum Punjab,

By Hugh Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

Not long ago I dismounted from my horse at the edge of the River, Jhelum where a boat was waiting for me to embark; opposite to the spot, in the middle of the swiftly flowing water was a small heavily wooded island, attracting attention as being unusual in these parts, where the islands are as a rule mere sandbanks, or else flat cultivated stretches with scarcely a tree of any size; some three or four hundred yards up stream was a similar but smaller and less densely wooded island.

A couple of months earlier I had found some Little

Egrets near here, and had decided that the island was worth searching for their nests later on at the proper season. This was why I now entered the boat and gave the word for the island. Though the distance to the island was only about two hundred yards, it took time for the boat to reach there owing to the strength of the current, and I had ample time to look around.

The island was not above one hundred and fifty yards long by some sixty wide; the major portion, which stood some eight feet above the water, with steep banks screened by brushwood, was covered thickly with trees, forming a mass of dark unbroken green which showed up the white plumage of a few Egrets that could be seen sitting on the boughs. The lower part of the island end was covered with stunted tamarisk and ended in a pointed spit of sand clothed with "sarpat" grass to within a foot or two of the water's edge. Under the trees grew "bhang"—the drug producing plant, and in the more open parts this formed dense undergrowth, reminiscent of an English nettle-bed.

On neighbouring sandbanks, a few birds were standing at the water's edge; here a group of Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) were busy cleaning their plumage; there a few Cattle Egrets were wrapped in meditation. Over the shallower water, between the two islands, a number of Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna melanogaster*) were wheeling backwards and forwards, fishing. Now and again a Heron or Egret flew past, to disappear in the trees on the island.

As we approached nearer I could see a few Night Herons standing on the wet sand in that lumpy fashion, which one comes to look on as a chief characteristic of the species.

Reaching the island we scrambled up the sandy bank—and the spot lost its calm! Every step was greeted by the heavy flapping and harsh grunts that announced the startling of an indignant bird from its nest; while a host of Crows (*Corvus splendens*), fluttered and cawed, apparently most indignant at our intrusion.

My expectations were fulfilled; this was indeed the nesting place of the Egrets, and it was evident that the only obstacle to securing their eggs, would be the difficulty of identifying the actual owners of each nest.

By dint of careful observation I managed to identify sufficient nests for my needs, and found that four species were breeding on the island; these were in order of abundance: the Cattle Egret, the Little Egret, the Pond Heron, and the Night Heron. A short account of each may not be out of place.

The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) is in winter pure white with a yellow bill and black feet; in breeding plumage the head and neck and long decomposed dorsal plumes become orange buff. Length 20 inches. The bird takes its name from the fact that it is a constant attendant on herds of cattle, feeding on the grasshoppers that are disturbed by the herd, and the insects that are attracted by it.

The Little Egret (*Herodias garzetta*) is pure white at all seasons with black bill and tarsus, the toes being a curious mixture of black and yellow. In the breeding season a crest of two long attenuated feathers is developed and the pectoral feathers become lengthened and lanceolate; the dorsal feathers become a train of long decomposed plumes, turned up towards the end,—these being an inferior variety of the plumes of commerce. Length 25 inches.

The Pond Heron or Paddy Bird (*Ardeola grayi*)—a relative of the European Squacco Heron—is one of the most familiar of Indian water birds. In winter it is roughly speaking a mixture of buff, yellow, and various shades of brown, in streaks, with pure white wings and tail. The breeding plumage is very different. The head and neck are light yellowish brown, with an occipital crest of long narrow lanceolate white feathers; the feathers of the upper breast are long, partly decomposed, ashy brown with narrow whitish streaks; the back and inner scapulars are long, decomposed, and coloured deep maroon; remainder of plumage pure white; bill blue at the base, yellowish in the centre, and black at the tip. Feet dull green. Length 18 inches. This little Heron frequents every description of pond, marsh, river, and pool, and is not (in winter plumage) usually observed, until it takes flight, when by suddenly revealing the pure white wings and tail it becomes most conspicuous.

To return to the colony, the Night Herons had built their nests together in one part, but the other three species were nesting anywhere with their nests all mixed together. The nests of all were the ordinary structure of sticks, and the only ones that were distinguishable from those of other species were the small platforms of the Pond Herons.

The noises made by the Herons were most curious—usually a kind of rather frog-like croak, or a gurgle, which in the excitement of an occasional squabble were exchanged for harsh quacks that might well have been uttered by an agitated duck.

The eggs of all four species of Heron nesting in the colony were of course of the typical blue-green colour, but by careful examination I found that the eggs might usually be distinguished as follows:

Herodias garzetta and *Bubulcus coromandus* lay eggs roughly the same size, but those of the latter tend to be slightly larger; the colour however is very distinctive (as between these two species) for the eggs of *H. garzetta* are a much deeper blue-green, those of *B. coromandus* being more properly described as white tinged with bluish-green. Whereas *H. garzetta* usually lays 5 or 6 eggs, *B. coromandus* seldom lays more than 4. The eggs of *Nycticorax griseus* are distinguishable by their larger size from those of *Ardeola grayi* and *Herodias garzetta*, and usually from those of *Bubulcus coromandus*, but large eggs of the latter approximate to small eggs of the former; in such cases the deeper colour would serve to identify the eggs of *N. griseus*.

The eggs of *Ardeola grayi* which are of the deeper blue-green Heron type may be distinguished from those of the other three species by their small size.

The measurements in millimetres, of eggs recorded in my notes give the following results:

Nycticorax griseus: 6 eggs; length 40-46.5; breadth 34-36.5; average 48 x 35.5.

Nycticorax griseus: 6 eggs; length 40-46.5; breadth 31-34; average 44 x 33.

Bubulcus coromandus: 22 eggs; length 42-47.5; breadth 33-35.5; average 44.5 x 34.5

Ardeola grayi: 30 eggs; length 36-41.5: breadth 27 x 31.5; average 39 x 29.5.

I visited the island on several occasions and always found *Corvus splendens* numerous in the trees. Knowing the propensities of the Crow tribe, one suspected that they were there to prey on the eggs and young of the Herons, but I never saw any thefts taking place, and the Herons appeared not to mind the presence of the Crows; and birds generally are ready enough to object to dangerous intruders near their nests.

The numerous dust and rain storms that occur in this part must do a lot of harm to such colonies, for on one occasion when I went to the island the day after a bad storm, many young birds were lying dead on the ground below the nests.

Of the other inhabitants of the island there is little to be said. A very noisy Grey Partridge (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) inhabits the wilderness of "Bhang" undergrowth in the tamarisk: once, and only once have I seen him—perching on the lower bough of a tamarisk; yet he is always to be heard.

Towards dusk large numbers of Green Parrakeets (*Palaeornis nipalensis*) and (*torquatus*) arrive to roost in the trees, adding their full share of noise to the general contribution. Many Green Bee-eaters (*Merops viridis*) perch on the trees and bushes round the edge of the island, launching forth ceaselessly in pursuit of some luckless insect.

On one occasion I saw a tiny Heron sitting on the sand by the water's edge, and stalking it found I had secured the Little Green Heron (*Butorides javanicus*), but it did not appear to have a nest. My list of the Island birds ends with the Indian Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*), a pair of Ring Doves (*Turtur risorius*), the Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) and the Indus Sandlark (*Alaudula adamsi*); but doubtless it has many other visitors.

Blue-breast x Crimson-eared Waxbill Hybrid.

By Dr. Maurice Amsler.

On April 7th of this year I turned out from their winter quarters, into my small Finch Aviary, three Blue-breasted Waxbills and a hen Cordon Bleu. The former, I knew, consisted of two cocks and a hen, and they soon settled down amicably, one of the cock Blue-breasts obviously having plighted his troth to the hen Cordon Bleu.

On June 10th, I found a typical spherical nest in a privet bush and on the 15th, it contained four or five eggs, and one of the Blue-breasts was sitting. It never entered my mind, until later, that this bird was the Blue-breast who had mated off with the hen Cordon Bleu. On July 5th, I found that three eggs had hatched out, the young birds being about half-fledged. About this time I added to the aviary a cock Cordon Bleu, who was the means of my discovering the mixed parentage of the young birds.

Immediately he had got over the surprise of again seeing sunshine, trees, and grass, he made up to the female Cordon Bleu, who treated him with absolute contempt, whilst her Blue-breasted mate knocked his would-be rival off his perch, and chased him round the aviary.

I then noticed that the Cordon Bleu hen's tail was bent to one side—as occurs with all long-tailed birds of this genus, after sitting for a few days. I watched carefully, and soon found that she was feeding the three chicks already mentioned. Even so she might possibly have been feeding the young of a true pair of Blue-breasted Waxbills, but on July 11th, the day before the three hybrids flew, I found in another bush a similar nest containing eggs, and being incubated by the other cock and hen Blue-breasts, their eggs were fertile, and I believe have now hatched. The nest is rather high and I cannot examine it again without causing a good deal of disturbance. The young hybrids closely resemble Blue-breasted Waxbills which I have bred before—they are however perhaps a trifle paler in colour.

Ccrdon Bleus have the iris of a reddish-brown colour, and the beak has a distinct pink tinge; in Blue-breasted Waxbills the iris is dark brown and the bill is horn-coloured. The latter species are, moreover, half an inch longer, and of course considerably brighter in body colour.

It will be interesting to note later which parent the hybrids, favour, and more especially to find out whether they are capable of reproduction. I am hoping to get another brood this summer, which will increase my chance of securing one or more breeding pairs for next year.

I have marked the hybrids with numbered rings, and shall turn them out in an aviary to themselves so as to avoid all chance of confusion with either of their parent species.

Bird Marking

By Dr. Philip Gosse, M.B.O.U.

A year ago there appeared in "Bird Notes" a short account of the birds marked here at Beaulieu during the season with migration rings. Possibly this year's results may prove of a little interest.

In 1912 we marked in all 822 birds during the first six months, and 45 different species.

The total so far this year (end of July) is 1,279, and again 45 different species.

Among the birds marked here this year for the first time are Snipe, Tree Pipit, Lesser White-throat, Bullfinch, Ring Plover, Stone Chat, Heron, Jay, Herring Gull; Guillemot and Land Rail. All the birds in the following list were wild ones, except the Rose-coloured Pastor, which had been in my aviary for a few weeks, but not settling down with the rest of the birds, was given its liberty.

On the whole it has been a wonderfully good spring for birds here, as the weather was perfect for nesting with the exception of one violent thunderstorm, which drowned any number of nestlings and fledglings..

Nearly all the birds were marked as nestlings, though some Starlings, Chaffinches, Robins, and Sparrows, were caught in a trap and marked in the early part of the year.

Of the "returns" of last years birds, the one of chief interest was the case of a Song Thrush, No. 22212, which was found dying at the St. Catherine's light in the Isle of Wight at 5 a.m. on the 10th of February, of this year. In its stomach, which was rather empty, only fragments of insects were found. The lighthouse-keeper reported that the Thrush was killed during an immigration of Song Thrushes and Blackbirds from the South; so that there is little doubt that it was returning to the neighbourhood of its birth, St. Catherine's being about twenty miles due south of this place. I marked the bird as a nestling on the 25th, of April, 1912, in a wood here. We marked neither Marsh nor Coal Tits this year. During the winter these are to be seen everywhere in the woods, and plantations, but when the spring comes, I think they must to a great extent go elsewhere, as I seldom find a nest of either while the Blue-Tits are nesting in every nest-box or other suitable place.

I should like to take this opportunity to retract a rash statement which I made last year, that the Dartford Warbler never migrates. In "British Birds," vol. v., page 220, is an interesting account of a Dartford Warbler that was caught at the Tuskar Lighthouse, Co. Wexford, on October 27th, 1912. But this is the only example so far that has been obtained in any lighthouse in Great Britain or Ireland.

Song Thrush	236	Snipe	8
Blackbird	227	Tree Pipit	6
Blue Tit	126	Lesser Whitethroat	5
Chaffinch	71	Bullfinch	5
Lapwing	63	Yellowhammer	5
Starling	63	Partridge	5
Robin	56	Ring Plover	5
Hedge-Sparrow	54	Spotted Flycatcher	4
House-Sparrow	50	Whitethroat	4
Missel-Thrush	49	Stonechat	4
Swallow	34	Nightingale	4
Linnet	27	Wren	3
Skylark	26	Tree Creeper	3
Pied Wagtail	19	Heron	3
Greenfinch	15	Wood Pigeon	2
Moorhen	15	Turtle Dove	2
Great-Tit	14	Jay	1
Long-tail Tit	12	Herring Gull	1
Nuthatch	11	Guillemot	1
Willow Warbler	10	Landrail	1
Meadow Pipit	9	Nightjar	1
Teal	9	Rose-coloured Pastor	1
Mallard	9		
		TOTAL	1279

Among several friends who helped me by marking birds or showing me nests, I must particularly thank Edward Crouch, who having spent most of his seventeen years in the woods and marshes, was of great assistance.

The rings used are those issued by the Aberdeen University Bird Migration Inquiry.

* * *

Zoo Notes.

By the Hon. Editor

At the Zoo nesting results appear to have been below the average, and most aviculturists are telling the same mournful story—infertile eggs, or chicks dead in shell seem to have been a pretty general experience. Some of the successes are as follows:

White Storks (*Ciconia alba*). These are located in Seagulls' Aviary, and have nested and hatched out young on several occasions but have never reared them. This year they have done better and three young birds are now fending for themselves.

Crested Screamers (*Chauna cristata*). Success has again attended these fine birds, three were hatched out, but only one still lives, two having been trodden on while brooding and crushed almost flat. In connection with this interesting episode, the accompanying photo of the adult birds caressing may be of interest.

Mexican Quail (*Callipepla squamata*), Douglas Quail (*Lophortyx douglasi*), and Spotted Tinamous (*Nothura maculosa*), all have broods.

Blue Water-hens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) have successfully hatched out two chicks, which are being brought up by Bantams.

American Red-winged Starling (*Agelaeus phoeniceus*), have three young birds on the wing, which are not yet fending for themselves, but this is now only a matter of a few days.

Bronze-wing and Crested Pigeons and White-fronted Doves are all feeding young.

Among the failures may be mentioned the Orange-headed and White-throated Ground Thrushes, both of which successfully reared young last year.

Among the recent additions are a pair of Australian Flower-Peckers (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*); these were much admired by the members, who attended recent Club Meetings at the Zoo.

Another interesting arrival is a second Kagu, but unfor-

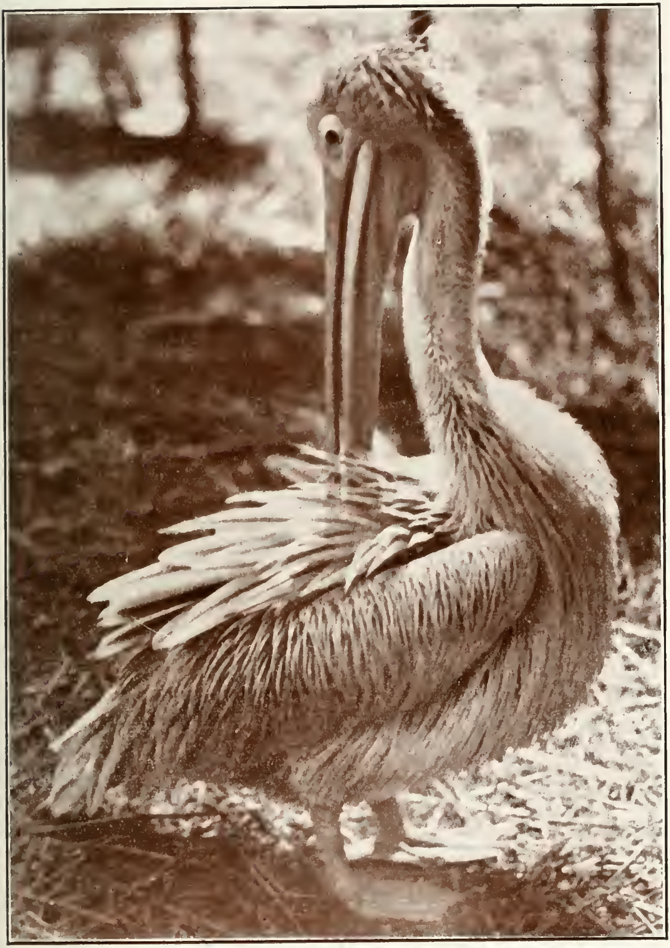
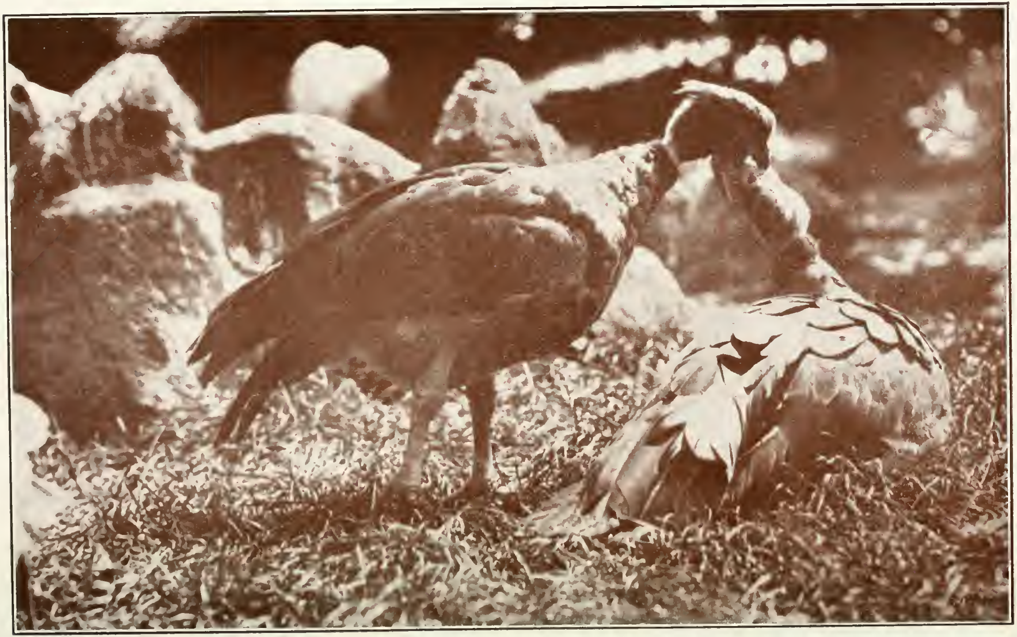


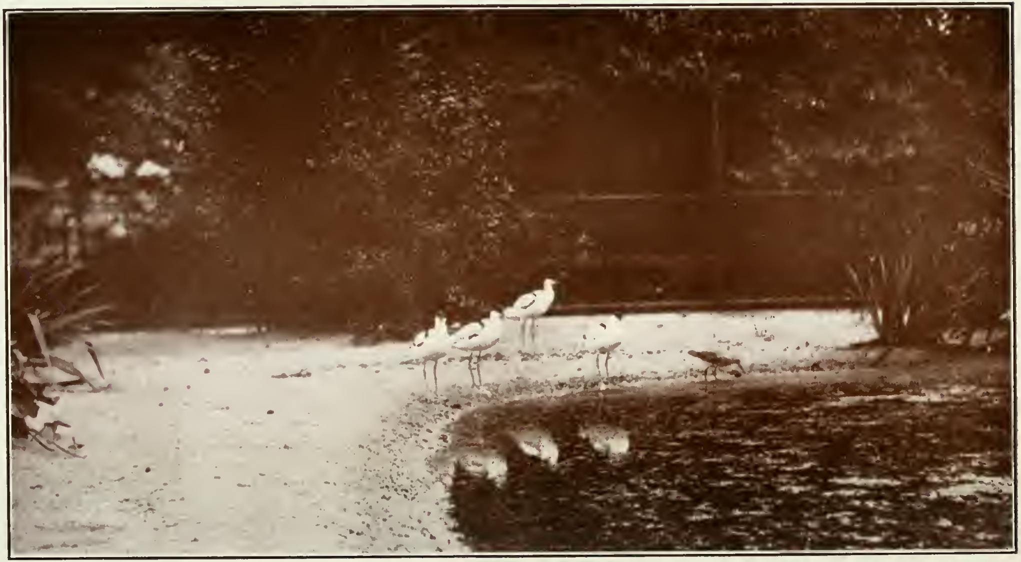
Photo by E. O. Page.

Pelican Preening its Plumage.



Crested Screamers—London Zoo.

Photo by E. O. Page.



Avocets—Waders' Aviary, London Zoo.

Photo by E. O. Page.

tunately, I fear, that this bird is of the same sex as the one already there. While writing of the Zoo, the Pelican enclosure is always of interest, and the plate of one of these huge and atractive birds preening its plumage, taken by my brother two years ago, may prove of some little interest.

For the same reason a photo of part of the Waders' Aviary is given, with a group of Avocets in the distance. This aviary always attracts much admiration, and its varied occupants are a source of great interest to many visitors. I may remark, *en passant*, that three years ago a young Avocet and two Redshanks were successfully reared in this aviary.

Unfortunately the process of enlargement of the photos has been carried too far, and detail has suffered somewhat therefrom.

Visits to Members' Aviaries and Birdrooms

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(*Continued from page* 184).

Mr Scott-freeland's Aviaries : These Tonbridge aviaries are really picturesque and will be more so as they develop, for they were not finished (two of them) till quite late in the autumn of 1912, and of course natural cover, etc., has yet to develop, yet sufficient has been done to give them a natural appearance, and the general effect is very pleasing, much enhanced by the setting of a most picturesque garden. Mr. Freeland is quite a new adherent to aviculture, but he certainly has made a most promising beginning, and evidently does not intend to be content with the "Freely Imported Species," for he already has many uncommon and beautiful species occupying the respective aviaries.

The aviaries, three in number, have been named The Terrace, Rockery, and Road Aviaries, according to the position which they occupy.

The Terrace Aviary, while containing a certain number of regular occupants, is looked upon as the reception quarters for new arrivals to be rested and acclimatized in, before being turned into permanent quarters in the Rockery or Road Aviaries. The shelter of this aviary reminds one of a gigantic bee-hive, for the walls and roof are thatched externally with a three-inch thickness of straw, and very pleasing the effect is. Canaries and Cutthroats have reared young to fend for themselves. Its occupants at time of my visit were:

4 Canaries
1 Nonpareil Bunting ♀
2 Lavender Finches
2 Cordon Bleus
2 Bengalese
2 Zebra Finches
1 Java Sparrow
1 Combasou
2 Black-headed Nuns
2 Spice Finches
2 Cutthroats and Young
2 Silverbills

All being apparently in perfect health and condition.

From the terrace a flight of steps leads down to the Road and Rockery Aviaries. I must really speak of these two as one in describing them, for they are practically one structure with a wire netting partition down the centre of flight and lofty shelters attached to each flight. The framework of flight is of iron (semi-circular top), covered with half-inch mesh wire netting. The shelters are of wood, with three inches of straw between the two courses of boards, and are very lofty and light. I did not take actual measurements, but the shelters are about 10 feet square, and the flights about 40 feet by 10 feet each. I should say the terrace ground is much higher than the aviary site, and as the latter are approached from the high ground, the effect as one looks down into the aviaries is most pleasing and picturesque. An asphalte path runs through the entire length of each flight, and the beds on either side are planted with various shrubs, evergreens, etc., and the whole effect is very natural. I hope at some future time Mr. Freeland will describe these aviaries and illustrate his notes with photographs of the aviaries and their occupants.

The occupants of these aviaries are as follow :—

Rockery Aviary:

2 Tricolour Tanagers
3 Superb Tanagers
1 Gold-fronted Fruitsucker
2 Blue Sugar-Birds
4 Yellow-winged Sugar-Birds
2 Orange-headed Ground Thrushes
1 Black Redstart
4 Gouldian Finches
8 Orange-cheek Waxbills
4 Grey Waxbills
2 Goldfinches
2 Siskins (nesting)
1 Hooded Siskin
2 Grey Linnets
1 Ruficauda Finch
2 Indigo Buntings
3 Zebra Finches and Young
1 Black-headed Nun
1 Grey Singing Finch
2 Spice Finches

2 Gold-breasted Waxbills
2 Violet Tanagers
4 Cordon Bleus
2 Masked Grassfinches
2 Silverbills
2 White-headed Nuns
1 Lavender Finch
1 Green Avadavat

ROAD AVIARY:

2 Saffron Finches
1 Pied Wagtail
1 Yellow Wagtail ♀
1 Hardwick's Fruitsucker
1 Virginian Cardinal
2 Indigo Buntings
2 Silver-eared Mesias
2 Blue Tanagers
1 Scarlet Tanagers ♂
2 Magpie Mannikins
3 Paradise Whydahs
1 Pintail Whydah
1 Blue Bird ♀
1 Green Singingfinch
1 Short-winged Weaver
2 Red-billed Weaver
3 (various) Weavers
1 Nightingale
1 Redstart ♂
1 Bullfinch ♂
1 Goldfinch ♀
2 Chaffinches

In the Road Aviary Blue Tanagers and Silver-eared Mesias have each had three clutches of eggs, but all the eggs were infertile. Both pairs were nesting again and hope had taken a new lease of life. Saffron Finches were incubating. In the Rockery Aviary Olive and Zebra Finches have young on the wing, but not yet fending for themselves. Masked Grassfinches have young in the nest which were doing well, and Orange-cheeked Waxbills were nesting. There were a fair number of nests high up of which Mr. Freeland knew nothing.

The above notice in most inadequate, but my desire is that owners should give descriptions of their aviaries and birds. Mr. Freeland said that up to the present only Canaries and Cutthroats had reared young up to the point of fending for themselves, but that there were many other prospects of success in other directions.

L.M.T. CRIPPLES' HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE AVIARIES: These aviaries have now developed and are now looking quite spectacular, the Finch aviary in particular looks charming with the internal standards wreathed with Dorothy Perkins and other Rambler Roses, the door arches covered with clematis, ivy, and honeysuckle, while the evergreens, privet hedge, etc., have all done well and the result is very picturesque. In opposite corners brambles thrive and are now producing fruit. The occupants of the aviary are thriving also, and two rather interesting successes are worth recording.

Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*). A pair of this species have successfully reared one young bird which was (July 30th) fending for itself. There are very few instances of this species rearing young in captivity, and so far nothing has been placed on record concerning them save the bare fact of success. The nest which I closely examined was built in a honeysuckle which was twining round a sparse hazel bush. It was fairly closely woven, though the aviary attendant informed me that he could easily see the one egg through it, and was a two chambered construction, a short tube or spout led to the first chamber and the other or hind compartment formed the incubation chamber; unfortunately when I saw it, though nearly intact, it was too much the worse for "wear and tear" to be photographed, the spout or tube having almost disappeared. I gleaned the following facts from the attendant concerning it.

Only one egg was laid, which duly hatched out.

The young bird was about sixteen days old when it left the nest.

On July 30th it was fending for itself and had been out of the nest about three weeks.

The nestling plumage is very similar to that of the adult female, but greyer and the striations much less distinct; beak light horn-colour.

An interesting result, as very little live food is supplied, and the young bird must have been reared on seed and greenfood, plus what insects its parents captured in the aviary. Adult pair nesting again.

Hybrid Mannikins: Odd specimens of Indian Silverbill (♂) and Spice Finch (♀) crossmated, and after laying a fair number of creamy-white eggs, succeeded in hatching out and fully rearing two young birds, which were about one week out of the nest when I saw them. The nest was a domed structure built, in a box, of grass and very compactly woven together. The nestlings are about the size and contour of Silverbills, but at present it is impossible to say what they will be like when they have moulted; at present they are of a nondescript brown, lighter on the underparts. On one of them there are slight indications of the scalings of the Spice Finch. They are nesting again.

Cutthroats (*Amadina fasciata*). These have one brood of two young males on the wing and are feeding a second brood in the nest.

Hybrid Blackbirds: A Grey-winged Ouzel (*Merula boulboul*) x Blackbird (*Merula merula*) have nested thrice and are nesting again. So far there has been no result; one young bird lived to leave the nest, but not to fend for itself.

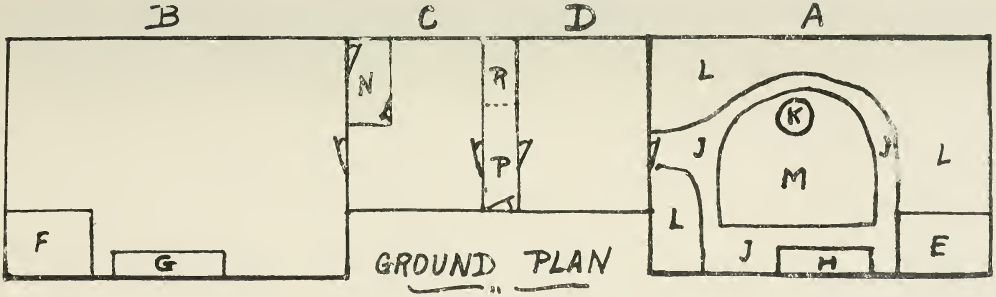
Parrakeet Aviary: Here, though all the birds Rosella, Red-rumped, and Ring-necked Parrakeets; Madagascar, Blue-wing and Black-cheeked Lovebirds; Cockatiels and Budgerigars—are in excellent condition and very vigorous. Only the Budgerigars have reared young, though the Black-cheeked Lovebirds are nesting.

They have unfortunately lost their hen Gouldian Finch. If any of our members has a duplicate hen such would be very acceptable and gratefully acknowledged.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY'S AVIARIES (Highgate): On Tuesday, August 5th, I availed myself of Mr. Money's kind invitation to lunch and to see his aviaries and birds. The house is barely completed, and it speaks volumes for Mr. Money's interest and enthusiasm in his birds, that the aviaries are up before the grounds are touched!

While Mr. Money has provided a fair amount of natural cover, he has not so much as is usually found in the garden aviary, his desire being to have his birds mostly staged, as it were, before him, and he has certainly succeeded in securing this and at the same time very pleasing and attractive aviaries; the ground plan clearly indicates how he has achieved this. Mr. Money also likes to have as varied a series of birds as it is possible to keep together, as will be indicated in the lists given later.

The aviaries have only been up about six weeks, and were erected on bare, rough ground; yet Mr. Money has triumphed over difficulties and pushed on one side gardeners and nurserymen's objections that it was impossible to move large bushes in July—privet and other bushes, 8 feet high have been successfully transplanted, and by the free use of water, both as to the ground and sprayed over the foliage, this has been accomplished with scarcely the loss of a leaf—



MR. CHIOZZA MONEY'S AVIARIES.

A.B.—Outside Flights 28ft. by 16ft., by 7½ft. high.
C.D.—Shelter Flights 12ft. by 12ft., by 7½ft. to 8ft. high.
E.F.—Small enclosures 8ft. by 4ft., by 7½ft. high, for special pairs.
G.H.—Seats in Outer Flights for observing the birds.
J.—Gravel walks in Flights.
K.—Circular cement Bath with fountain jet in centre.
L.—Shrubberies of privet, euonymus, laurel, etc.
M.—Grass-plot, rising in a hillock at Bath (K).
N.—Small Flight in shelter for new arrivals, etc.
P.—Entrance to shelter, with Flights opening out on either side.
R.—Tier of broad shelves, forming food store, with gas radiator beneath.
Note—Outside Flight "B" is arranged similar to "A" in all respects.

and the aviary generally has quite an established and picturesque appearance.

A reference to the ground plan will show that it consists of two aviaries "A" and "B," each 28ft. x 16ft., with shelter flights 12ft. x 12ft. attached. The shelter, one building, has a passage "P" running from front to back from which the shelter flights, "C" and "D," are entered, and from these the outer flights are reached.

I will now give a list of the occupants of the respective aviaries :—

Aviary A.—D.

1 pair Sikhim Siskins
1 ♂ Shama
1 Hardwick's Fruitsucker
1 Indian Grey Tit
1 Green-backed Tit
1 Lapwing
1 Parson Finch
1 pair Masked Grassfinches
1 pair Scarlet Tanagers
1 pair Nonpareil Buntings
1 pair Red-crested Cardinals
1 pair Cuba Finches
1 pair Orange-cheeked Waxbills
1 pair Gold-breasted Waxbills

2 pairs Cordon Bleus
1 pair Green Avadavats
1 pair Bib Finches
1 pair Diamond Finches
1 pair Crimson-crowned Weavers
1 pair Bronze Mannikins
1 ♂ Orange Bishop
1 ♂ Palm Tanager
1 ♀ Gouldian Finch
3 Lavender Finches
1 ♂ Napoleon Bishop
1 ♂ Purple Sugar-bird
1 Hoopoe

Aviary E.

1 Pennant's Parrakeet

Aviary B.—C.

1 pair Blue Tanagers
1 ,, Indian White-eyes
1 ,, Necklace Tanagers
1 ,, Pekin Robins
1 ,, Blue Tits
1 ,, Red-collared Lorikeets
1 ,, Gouldian Finches
1 ,, Long-tailed Grassfinches
1 ,, Zebra Finches and Young
1 ,, Avadavats
1 ,, Orange-cheeked Waxbills
1 ,, Grey Waxbills
1 ,, Gold-breasted Waxbills

1 pair Hartz Canaries
1 ,, Cordon Bleus
1 ♂ Virginian Cardinal
1 ♀ Green Cardinal
1 Tricolour Tanager
1 ♂ Dhyal Bird
1 ♂ Redstart
1 ♂ Whinchat
1 ♂ Rainbow Bunting
1 ♂ Pileated Finch
2 ♂ Paradise Whydahs
1 ♀ Gold-fronted Fruitsucker

Aviary F.

1 pair Gouldian Finches

All the birds were in excellent condition and seemingly already established; the aviary is too young yet to write of breeding results, but one young Zebra Finch is on the wing. The above lists should prove of practical utility as indicating what birds are kept together in the same aviary. So far the Red-collared Lorikeets have not attacked the foliage, in fact have done no whittling at all, being apparently quite content with sucking the privet blossoms. Indian White-eyes have built a typical nest in an Acuba bush, but the two eggs are infertile.

I must leave other visits for another issue.

(*To be continued*).

From All Sources

The capture the other day of a Cuckoo in an exhausted condition in the churchyard of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, is an interesting, although by no means unique, event, there being, of course, many instances on record in which members of the bird creation—and, indeed, the zoological world generally—have found themselves in unnatural surroundings.

It is not a little interesting to note that upon the spire of the same church, where the Cuckoo has just been found, there was to be seen at one time at regular intervals, a falcon, which appeared to have a special predilection for this particular neighbourhood.

Here are a few of the numerous instances which have occurred in recent years, in which, so far as the feathered creation are concerned, queer places have been selected by some of the better known varieties.

Swan on a railway carriage roof at Luton.
Woodcock in the Temple.
Snipe in Marylebone-road.
Golden-crested Wren on the Big Wheel at Earl's Court.
Owl in the Lyric Theatre, London.
Partridge in a Newcastle Chapel.
Pheasant in Tottenham Court Road.
Sparrow-Hawk in a North-Western train.
Puffin in Grosvenor Square.

Peacock among the Pimlico Chimney pots.
Pheasant in Old Queen Street, Westminster.
Yellow Hammer in the House of Commons.
Landrail on the Horse Guards' Parade.
Swan on the glass roof of Paddington Station.
Eagle in Fleet Street.
Buzzard on the roof of the House of Commons.
Vulture in Ratcliffe Highway.

"P.M.G.," 30/7/'13, per Rev. G. H. Raynor.

REFORMED CUCKOOS: On the estate of Colonel A. M. Blake, at Welwyn, Herts, two young Cuckoos have been found with the parent birds in attendance. Usually the eggs are laid in other birds' nests and left to foster-parents, but this is the third successive year that Cuckoos have brought up their young at Welwyn.—*From the "Daily Express" July* 15th, *per J. L. Grossmith.*

Reported Orange Bishop x Canary Hybrids: In "Cage Birds" for July 19th, a correspondent (F. J. Weaire), claims to have two young hybrids as above, a week old and states that the Orange Bishop paired with his mate (Buff and Green Norwich) when in undress plumage. In the July 26th issue of the same journal Mr. Weaire asserts that there is no doubt about the parentage of the young hybrids, then a fortnight old and growing quickly and large enough to bolt out of nest. He states that the Orange Bishop had paired with the Canary several times during the past three days and that he was expecting her to lay again. W.T.P.

Reviews and Notices of New Books.

"IN A CHESHIRE GARDEN" (Illustrated), by G. Egerton Warburton; 120 p.p. London: Sherratt and Hughes, 33, Soho Square, W. 2s. 6d. net

A most interesting booklet of 120 p.p., with seven beautiful photo-reproductions. A glossary of contents and illustrations will best indicate its interesting character: Contents: Introduction, Weeds and Alien Plants, Birds—Thrushes; Chats, Robins, and Warblers; Tits and Wrens; Flycatchers, Swallows, and other Insect-eaters; Sparrows and other Finches; Finches, Starling and Crows; Other Birds; British Mammals; Dogs and Cats; Index.

Illustrations: Flower Garden, Old Church, The Old Yew, The Sundial, A Corner in the Garden with *Allium dioscorides,* Two Nests, The Food-stand.

The book is pleasant narrative from cover to cover, and scientific also; it does not contain a dull page. Birds occupy the major portion of the text; much bird-lore is recounted in a most interesting manner, and every sentence indicates the writer to be a true lover of wild nature. He strikes the true key-note when he writes: "A man who shoots every rare "bird he sees, that he may add to his private collection, is sacrificing bird-"life for his own selfish pleasure and disregarding the sentiments and interests of the great body of nature-lovers and students."

"The true naturalist does not collect specimens as he would postage "stamps; to study the life of a wren in its natural surroundings is more "to him than anything he can do with the skin of a Golden Eagle. They "say that there is in Switzerland a law which forbids the shooting of any "bird without a licence. If some such law could be enforced here, rare "birds that seek hospitality among us would no longer be at the mercy "of every idle lout who happens to have a gun. And is it impossible that "children might be taught to find pleasure in watching, and not, as seems "generally the case now, in destroying life?"

Space forbids further comment, but it is a book that will be read and re-read by those who procure it. Such records will have a peculiar value when the wilderness of wild nature is largely replaced by a wilderness of bricks and mortar. We cordially commend this little book to every nature lover.

Editorial,

PARRAKEETS AT LIBERTY: From several communications received we gather many species of PSITTACI enjoy liberty at Woburn Abbey Park, and the following species have bred there, we believe, during this season, viz.: Stanley Parrakeets (*Platycercus icterotis*), Adelaide Parrakeets (*P. adelaidæ*), Barnard's Parrakeets (*Barnardius barnardi*), Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximus*), and Roseate Cockatoos (*Cacatua roseicapilla*). Gang-Gang Cockatoos nested twice, but deserted their eggs on both occasions.

NESTING SEASON: This has not been a good one, owing to weather conditions principally, for never have birds in our members' aviaries shown a greater readiness to nest, but the cry from all sources has been "infertile eggs" or "chicks dead in shell." However, some measure of success has been attained, but the season has nevertheless been a co-mingling of failure and success, the former we fear predominating with many. We quote the following as illustrative of this from a members' letter.

"I found very little of interest when I got back. The "Melba Finches killed all the young Yellow-rumped Mannikins. "I found four young Diamond Sparrows just ready to fly, fully "feathered, but dead, and the old birds sitting again. One "young hybrid Bib Finch x Bronze-wing Mannikin was on the "wing, as were also another brood of Magpie Mannikins. I "also found two more young Diamond Doves and one Violet "Dove flying strongly. Melbas have built again, and there are "more young Bib Finches. There are nests and eggs of all the "Masked, Long-tail, and Rufous-tail Grassfinches, but no young "ones. Young Budgerigars and Cockateels in plenty. I hope "there is still time for the Grassfinches to rear."

OBITUARY: We regret to have to record that our member Mr Albert Sutcliffe has lost his father, Alderman J. Sutcliffe, with painful suddenness, from heart failure, on August 7th. We tender to Mr. Sutcliffe and the family our deepest sympathy in their sad and sudden bereavement.

ERRATA: The plate of Hemprich's Gull, opposite page 176 in June issue of "B.N.," is printed upside down. With next issue a loose plate will be included to replace same. Page 195, line 6, for *phonenicoptera* read *phoenicoptera.*

Page 226, line 14, for "June 20," read June 16.

The Hon. Editor regrets that pressure upon his time and the late arrival of copy, have made it impossible to include the usual notes, or to give the proofs the attention they should receive and members' indulgence is craved accordingly—the above is also the reason of the late appearance of this issue.

RECENT ARRIVALS: Dr. Hopkinson has recently returned from S. Africa, with a few Quail Finches, Napoleon Weavers, and a true pair of Textor or Buffalo Weaver, or Oxbird (*Textor senegalensis*). Most have been already distributed among members with garden aviaries, so that the birds might have opportunity to reproduce their kind in captivity.

Sexing the Gold-fronted Fruitsucker

(*Chloropsis aurifrons*).

In "B.N.," Vol. I., N.S., page 83, the following are sexual distinctions, taken by our member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker from a pair of living birds in his possession.

1.—"The female is decidedly smaller than the male and her beak more slender."

2.—"The golden forehead is much paler, and her upper and under tail coverts are also paler than those of her mate."

3.—"The area of black on throat does not extend further back than a line dropped perpendicularly from the eye."

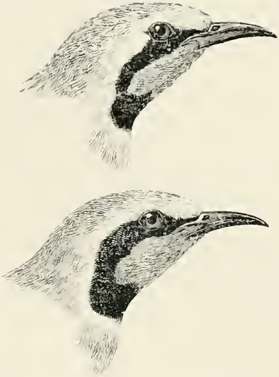
Since then I have had the opportunity of closely examining several true pairs and it would appear that the above distinctions are fairly constant, but owing to the variation common to all species with an extended range, distinctions Nos. 1 and 2 are not so reliable as No. 3, which has been constant in all the reliably sexed birds I have been privileged to examine, some twelve pairs, and very many odd males. In April last Major Perreau kindly brought me over a true pair, kindly presented to me by our member Mr. Appleby, and these are now doing well in my garden aviary, though no attempt has been made at nest building up to the present, that I have discovered, though the male has been seen with bents in his beak on several occasions. As the above referred-to distinctions occur also in this pair I got Mr. Goodchild to make a drawing of their heads, which we reproduce herewith. We hope members with true pairs will compare their birds with the accompanying figure, and communicate any variation their birds may show from the drawing. WESLEY T. PAGE.

Correspondence.

THE NESTING OF THE BLACK-HEADED NUN.

Sir,—In response to your enquiries, we know so little about the advent of the little Black-headed Nun that we really desired to keep silent about the matter, save giving a bare record of the episode.

We had kept this species so long without their making any attempt at nesting that they did not interest us greatly and we took but little note of their doings; this species increased the variety of our series of birds, and I fear our interest in them ended there.



GOLD-FRONTED FRUITSUCKER.

Upper Figure—♀ Lower Figure—♂

In the summer of 1912 I found a brownish coloured bird, on the floor of the aviary, which looked at first sight like a young Sharp-tailed Finch but proved to be a Black-headed Nun (*Munia atricapilla*) from the fact that they fed it. It was of a nondescript brown, lighter below, with a greyish beak and one white feather in its wing. The parents were occasionally seen to feed it, and we conclude that it emanated from a coco-nut husk, because the parents were observed hopping about a particular one.

I am afraid this little stranger did not interest us greatly, and we took very little notice of it at the time and we are not sure if it is still living. Of course if the parents should go to nest again this year we will carefully note all we can concerning the episode.

We showed the little bird to our Hon. Editor, as he happened to call very soon after the discovery of the fledgeling and he was interested at once. He is really responsible for what has appeared in "B.N." concerning it.

I am aware this is not very satisfactory and that the episode adds nothing to our knowledge of the life history of the species, save the bare fact that we do now know of one instance of a young bird of this species having been reared in captivity. (MRS.) J. EASTON SCOTT.

[I saw the young bird referred to above on several occasions and saw the parent birds (Black-headed Nuns) feeding it more than once, and also saw the parents and young bird on the husk together several times, and in my opinion there can be no doubt, either as to the parentage of the young bird or the deductions drawn above from the few details observed.—ED.].

MENU OF CAGE BIRDS.

Sir,—I wonder how many people not experienced aviculturists—think of giving their caged foreign Finches anything more than just seed and water. If they provided them with more variety there would not be such great mortality Mine have every morning, among other things, a little tray of dried ants' "eggs," on which boiling water has been poured, then well drained away; there is never never one left next day. One little Blue-breasted Waxbill I watch eating from 12 to 14 without stopping, when newly placed in the cage; but a circumstance connected with some freshly gathered "eggs" from the garden, seems to me worth relating: Yesterday morning, July 28th, I counted the said little Blue-breast swallowing 87 without a pause, this morning he partook of 91, only stopping once for "a drink," much needed, one would say. I may say that two of us counted this performance, that *one* should do so might be too great a tax upon credulity. (Garden ants' eggs are only about half the size of imported ones, be it said). But, does not this show of what immense use our wild insect eating birds must be in demolishing garden, orchard, and agricultural pests? They deserve a better fate than they ordinarily meet with. To return to the "bread and water" diet of the average poor little cage bird, mine always have a lump of sugar in a little tin lid, cuttlefish bone, and last though by no means least, a big bunch of flowering grass, planted in a potted-meat vessel, and well moistened. When grass in flower is not obtainable, grass without the flower does just as well, and the blades are eaten close down, as a salad. Is it not worth while to be at the trouble of all this for their amusement, to say nothing of the benefit they derive from the varied diet? Some people give mealworms, but my tiny mites don't seem able to tackle these. Green fly from the roses and other plants they like. If any member can suggest a still further extension of menu for the small foreign Finches, I hope they will do so. (MRS.) E. A. H. HARTLEY.

TURQUOISINE PARRAKEETS.

Sir,—It would be interesting to hear if Lord Tavistock succeeded in in obtaining a cock Turquoisine. A member offered me one last October, which I would have purchased had I been able to procure a hen, but that I regarded as impossible. I understand that cock is now at the Zoo, but should be glad to hear it had been transferred to Woburn, affording the means of breeding that most lovely, and now, alas! almost extinct Parrakeet. Many years ago (too many to reflect upon) when I was new to aviculture, I chanced to breed two broods in one season, seven in all, I think, or it may have been nine, and when advertised at 50s. pair, I remember being inundated with cheques and telegrams. I gave £2 for the parents which arrived perfect specimens—think of that now! It makes me sad to recall their fate, the cock was harassed to death by a nesting Blue Robin, the hen went blind, and finally died of starvation from an overgrown beak. I know better how to look after my birds now, but one has to pay dearly for one's experience.

(Mrs.) E. A. H. HARTLEY.

July 30th, St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings.

NESTING OF OCCIPITAL BLUE-PIES

Sir.—Another disappointment Occipital Blue-Pies nested again as I think you know. There were three fertile eggs, one hatched out all right and the hen ate the other two. The young bird did well for a week, the hen seeming to be a good mother This morning, when I visited the aviaries, I found the wretched bird calmly eating the chick. The nest was a very loose structure in a birch tree that I cut and fastened into the inner house; it was so loose that the young bird could be plainly seen through the nest from below. I think the period of incubation was 16 days. The young bird was without fluff and covered with a shining brown skin. E. J. BROOK

Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan, N.B., 24/7/13.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that Members from all round the coast will note the movements of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—**on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.**—ED.

July 1.—A family of Lesser-spotted Woodpeckers are frequenting this garden; the party consists of two old birds and four newly fledged young. We have heard them calling for some weeks but have not seen them until to-day. I imagine that they had their nest in an old acacia or high up in a Spanish Chestnut; both these trees are suitable. Last week a party of Goldfinches were feeding in our hayfield. They were probably bred in a neighbouring orchard, where many generations have nested.

,, 27.—A young Cuckoo settled in our Plane tree and was fed by foster-parents—Hedge Sparrows? They were so high up and so hidden by the leaves that I could not properly distinguish them.

E. F. C., LYNDHURST.

Late News.

Nesting of Spot-billed Toucan (*Selenidera maculirostris*). Just at the moment of going to press we learn that a young bird of this species has been hatched out, in a log nest, in one of the enclosures in the Small Birds' House (London Zoo). It is a fortnight old (August 12) and appears to be thriving; the parent birds feed it entirely on live-food, mealworms, gentles, beetles, etc.. No nest was built and all sawdust in the log nest was thrown out. The young bird is about half the size of its parents, and quite naked up to the present, but the flight feathers are just showing through; the whole of its body, beak and legs are flesh colour.

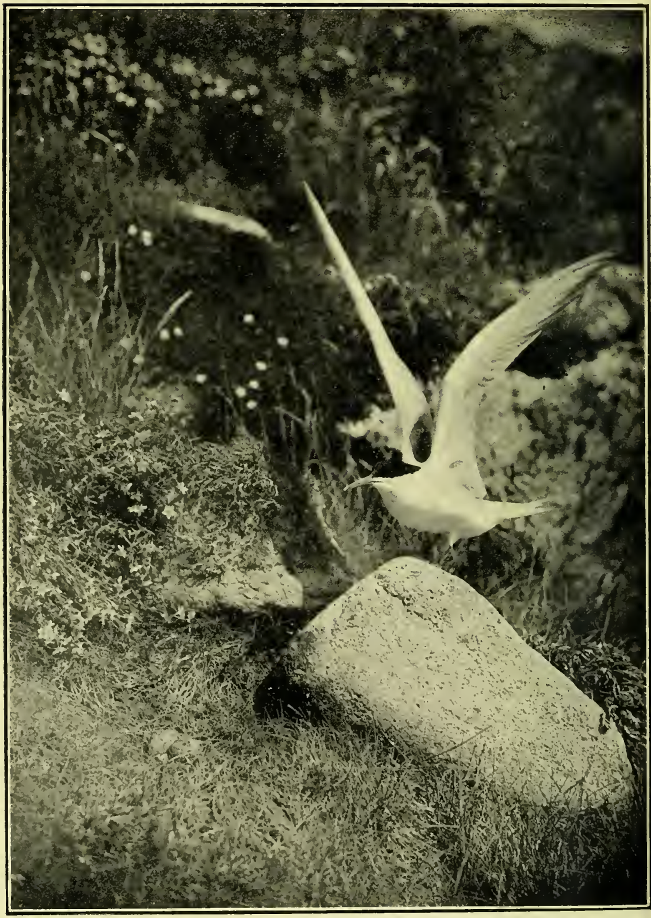
Rufous-necked Weaver (*Hyphantornis cucullatus*). One young bird of this species has been reared.

North American Snow-bird (*Junco hymenalis*). One young bird of this species has also been reared, we think, for the first time in Great Britain.—Ed.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules (See Page iii of Cover.)

None to hand at time of going to press.—Ed.



AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

Photo by H. Willford.

Common Tern (*Sterna fluviatilis*) Nest and Eggs.

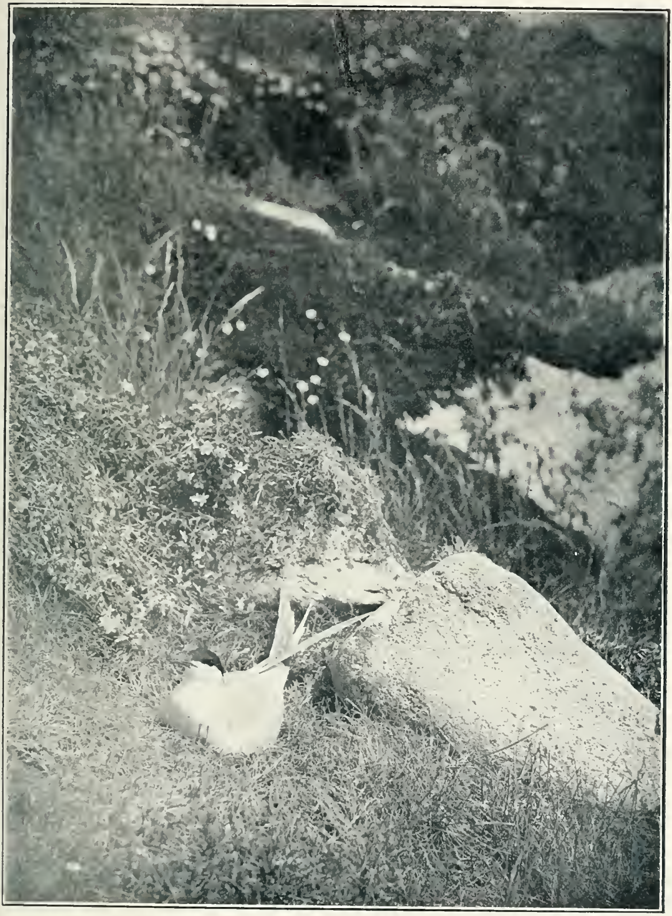


Photo by H. Willford.

Common Tern (*Sterna fluviatilis*) incubating.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Some Interesting Birds.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S. ILLUSTRATED FROM LIFE, BY H. WILLFORD,

(*Continued from page* 237).

THE COMMON TERN (*Sterna fluviatilis*). It has been well said that Terns are Gulls in miniature, but a better description would be small, slender and graceful Gulls. They have aptly been named Sea Swallows, the rapidity of their flight, vivacity and graceful wing evolutions, together with their forked tails, make the term most appropriate. While they have many characteristics in common with Gulls, yet they differ from them in being diving birds, although they seldom entirely disappear from view when taking their food from the water.

The length of wing (10.5) and graceful form of these Swallows of the sea is clearly shown in all four of the beautiful and striking photos, which Mr. Willford has secured this year at the Scilly Isles—with a total length of 14.25, over eight inches of which belongs to the bill (1.7), and tail (6.5), thus with a body but six inches long, each wing measures 10.5. A glance at our illustrations fully portrays this and also the exquisite beauty of form and their contrasty plumage. Their beauty and grace is seen to best advantage in the air, and is beyond description and always excites admiration, whether the spectator be a naturalist, or one who merely takes a passing interest in the wild creatures of the world we live in.

DESCRIPTION. *Summer Plumage*: Head and nape: back dark pearl-grey; rump and upper tail coverts, whitish pearl-grey; tail feathers white, with the outer webs grey; under-parts white, tinged with vinous-grey on the breast and abdomen; bill and feet red, the former with a black tip.

Winter Plumage: The forehead is much mottled with white, the underparts almost pure white, and the bill and feet dusky-red.

YOUNG: Head, streaked blackish-brown; back mottled with grey, brown and white; tail pale grey, whitish at tip; beneath white; bill and feet reddish-yellow. The down of the nestling is buff, mottled with black, whitish below, with black throat.

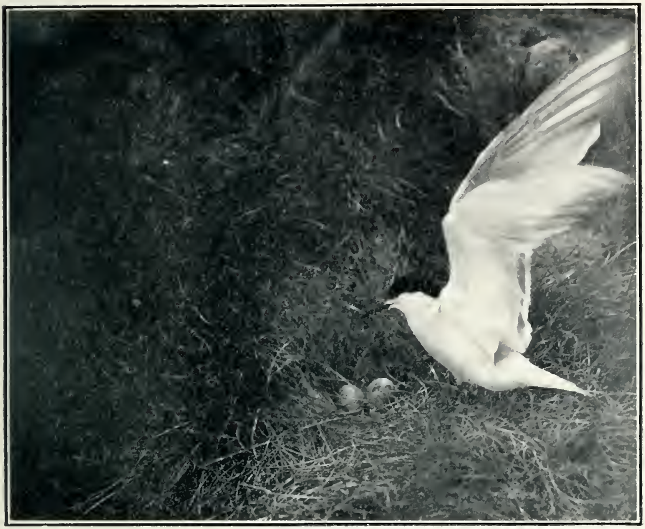
RANGE: May be said to be common over the greater part of the British Isles, but is less plentiful in the extreme north, where the Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura*) is the more plentiful. It arrives in England about the end of April and departs in the autumn (September, October), and during the autumnal migration may be met with on rivers and inland waters. The range, covering summer and winter, is very extended—besides the British Isles, it frequents the coasts, rivers, and lakes of Europe, Africa, Atlantic Islands, North America, Asia, India; while in winter it has been taken in Bolivia Brazil.

BREEDING: Their breeding range may be roughly described as here and there throughout the British Isles, and abroad across Europe to Central Asia and North America. They breed in colonies on both sandy and shingly beaches, also by fresh water, laying two or three eggs on sandy shingle, with or without a slight bedding of dry grass, or on the ground in marshy places. The ground colour of the egg varies from pale buff to olive-brown, much mottled and spotted with black, but the size and arrangement of marking is very variable; the average measurements are 1.7 x 1.1 in. Eggs have been found by the middle of May, but June is usually in before incubation is general.

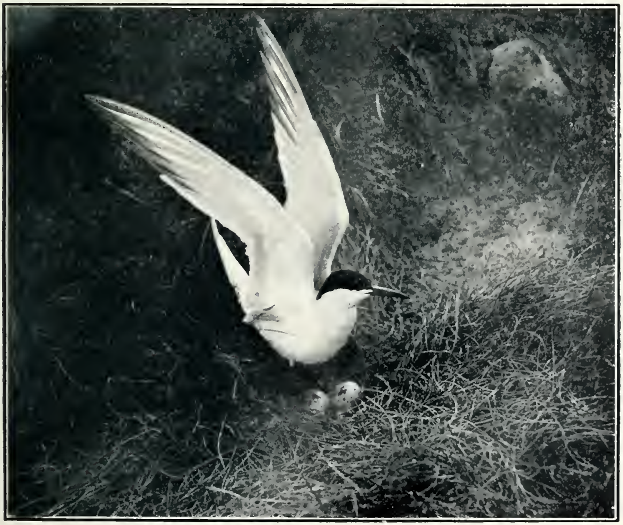
Their natural diet consists of small fish, sand eels, shrimps and crustaceans generally.

They resent intrusion and become very fierce; feathered intruders into the area of the breeding colony are frequently killed.

The Common Tern, perhaps of all our coast birds, excites the admiration of the beholder most, and to see a number of these birds hawking over the water is a sight long to be remembered; one is held almost spellbound by their graceful flight evolutions, and the lightning-like rapidity with which they dart



Common Terns (*Sterna fluviatilis*) alighting at nest.



Photos by H. Willford.

perpendicularly down on their prey, either from a high or low elevation, but in either case it is not often that they are wholly submerged. There is no prettier or more interesting sight than to come across a group of Terns so occupied.

To be continued

Hybrid Geese.

By Captain J. Sherard Reeve, F.Z.S.

The foxes having taken the last of my Chinese Geese (*Cygnopsis cygnoides*), the ganders were noticed to be mating with the Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), two of which duly laid eggs; one hatched out one young one and the other three. They were attended to by the old birds and soon joined with the other Canada Geese, a pair of which had previously hatched out five goslings, which can now be hardly distinguished from the adults.

I should be interested to hear whether such a cross has been bred before.

The young Chinese x Canada Geese may at present be described as follows :—In all respects like Canadas, except the head and neck, these parts being smoky instead of black and white; white mark on head dirty, light markings on feathers of wings and back practically absent; legs dirty yellow (neither black nor orange). From the above it will be gathered that the general appearance of these birds is smoky-grey; the principal plumatic characteristics of both species being lost in the cross.

[If there should be any further change in the plumage of the hybrids, as they mature, it would be of general interest if Captain Reeve will record same.—Ed.].

Bird Keeping under Difficulties and Aviary Notes.

By Lieut. F. M. Littledale.

My first purchase of Foreign Birds was in August, 1911. I soon caught the craze, though I had only kept one or two Parrots previously, and was not very much interested in birds.

The summer of 1911 was very hot, so I made a very favourable start, for these first acquisitions of mine towards a collection of birds did well; in the course of time I gathered together pairs each of: Avadavats, Orange-cheeked and Gold-breasted Waxbills, Silverbills and a Bib Finch. These all lived happily together in a medium sized Swiss cage.

As time went on I accumulated large numbers of the commoner varieties, and now, when I come to think of it, it is a marvel that I ever succeeded in keeping them; certainly I fed them in the right way, but I had very little knowledge of how to treat birds, and I knew nothing of papers such as "Cage Birds," or the Foreign Bird Club, and it was only by the accidental purchase of a book on Aquaria (Nutshell series) that I first understood that there existed books by experienced Foreign Bird experts. I was also handicapped by being in a perpetual state of moving, and cages were not good domiciles for my birds, as an army officer's quarters are draughty. All through 1912 and the treacherous spring of this year I had to keep them under most unsuitable conditions, and several times I made up my mind to get rid of them. I was really overstocked by this time, but in spite of all limitations I managed to establish many acquisitions from various consignments of birds, having meanwhile derived great benefit through the kindness of our Hon. Editor.

In April, 1913, I made a change in my accommodation, buying a ready-made aviary which screws together, and in May, having settled down at Cowes, I erected it there. The climate being mild, the birds improved wonderfully, but the aviary proved to be quite inadequate for my series of birds, and being constructed on the "save labour" system, it was difficult to open the door without the birds slipping out; fortunately most of them returned though. This aviary was 6 feet long, of the lean-to pattern, 6 feet high at back, and 5 feet in front. The shelter took up 1½ feet, leaving the flight 4½ feet. Shortly afterwards I visited Binstead, and saw Mr. Yealland's aviary and came to the conclusion to arrange a similar flight over the front of my "ready-made" aviary, 8 feet long, 6 feet deep, and 5 feet high. It is not ideal, but, my parents being great gardeners, one must keep within limits. This was completed in July, and the weather being warm, the door of the original aviary has been left open so that the birds might have free access to the new flight, and the aviary has since been a complete success.

All the birds have moulted, and most of them are now nesting. The aviary being rather restricted in size, I have had no opportunity for inspecting the nests. I knew that several nests were built at the beginning of August. The only results at present are:

Aug. 14.—Young Zebra Finches observed in nests, one in covered and one in open flight.

Aug. 15.—Three young Zebra Finches flew from nest in open flight.

Aug. 16.—One Zebra Finch left the nest in covered flight.

Aug. 17.—Two more Zebra Finches left the nest in covered flight, at least so I conclude, as they were flying about in covered flight when first observed.

Both the pairs of parent birds are nesting again, and are also still attending to their young (August 18th).

The following birds have nests in thick bushes, but results cannot yet be given from these: Common and Green Avadavats, Orange-cheeked and Gold-breasted Waxbills, Ruficauda and Masked Grassfinches, Cordon Bleus, and Cuba Finches.

Birds moulting: Gouldian Finches, two pairs (one Black-headed hen which had been bald for nearly a year is producing all its feathers again), and Gold-breasted Waxbills.

My Queen and Paradise Whydahs and Combasous are now donning their nuptial plumage.

The Breeding of a Hybrid Lorikeet.

(*Trichoglossus rubritorques* x *T. nigrigularis*).

By O. Millsum.

This record is long delayed. Our worthy Editor has done his utmost to urge me on—I regret very much having unheeded his exhortations for so long, but since the above event occurred, I have had many things to think of, which have kept me fully occupied to the exclusion of all else. True, there have been times when I might have written up the necessary details, but, all my notes and records were packed away previous to leaving Belgium—remained so until two months ago, since which I admit I have given the very little spare time at my disposal to the pleasures usually found at a seaside resort, and I believe even my friend, the Editor, will forgive me, now the obligation is at last fulfilled.

It was on Nov. 29th, 1911, when my thoughts were far away from inspecting nests, even with the hopes of finding any agreeable surprises, that my Belgian boy informed me that two of the Lorikeets in No. 37 aviary were constantly visiting one of the logs. The occupants of this aviary at that time were a true pair of Dark-throated Lorikeets (*T. nigrigularis*), one male *T. rubritorques*, and one female *T. nigrigularis*. Keenly interested, I immediately examined the said log, and was greatly surprised to find two eggs. The question now arose as to which pair of the birds they belonged? Also how long had they been incubating?

Observation during the next few days soon decided the first point, but, I had to wait until the 22nd for the elucidation of the last query, when I found one young bird in the log. I was delighted with this find, although I had little hopes of rearing it, because the weather was bitterly cold and the nest of a Lorikeet is not the cosiest cot imaginable. I always kept a shallow layer of dry sawdust at the bottom of each log, and this constituted the whole of the comforts it had, excepting when snugly covered by the parent bird. On the 26th I found the bird progressing favourably, and according to my notes of that day, "nicely covered with down." My next entry on the progress of this interesting youngster was January 3rd, 1912, "Young Hybrid Lorikeet still bonny, but now almost without down, and still no signs of any feathers." Poor little chap, methinks, weather bitterly cold, nature certainly did not endow you with the necessary covering to be hatched out in winter in this bleak climate, and my commiserations were well founded, for I found the little fellow dead within the next three days.—Thus ended the first chapter in the attempt of the parent birds to reproduce their kind—"something attempted, something done," but not enough for me. One needs to be philosophical to be an aviculturist.

Weeks passed and this particular disappointment had been forgotten, when my Belgian boy again informed me the old birds were again frequenting the log, and on examination it was found to contain two eggs. I would like, just here, to express my appreciation of that Belgian boy—always attentive, observant and willing, characteristics not always found in village boys. Two years with me and he had learnt to speak English very well, and had I still been closely associating myself with bird life upon my return, I should most certainly have accepted his expressed desire to bring him to England.

This latest find was on March 26th, 1912, and my entry reads, "with favourable weather ahead we should be successful in breeding this unique cross this time." I find no further entry or notes on this particular event until May 3rd, and, I will quote the actual entry as it will more clearly express my views and results of inspection at the time when I had the birds under my daily care. It reads: "I looked "into the nest log and find the young bird thriving wonder-"fully. It is now over two weeks old, and I am somewhat "surprised to find it, though quite a large bird, still covered "with greyish down, pen feathers only just showing in wings: "on the breast there is just visible the glorious red of the "adult plumage, only just visible but it stands out beauti-"fully distinct against the grey down."

May 8th: "I find the wing feathers slightly developed "and the crown quite full of pen feathers."

May 10th: "Took young hybrid from log for exam-"ination and find it a bonnie bird—size of body seems al-"most full grown. Its feathers are now beginning to grow "beautifully. The crown is a picture, being completely cov-"ered with beautiful iridiscent blue, the breast shining red-"dish-orange, and wings beautiful emerald-green."

May 18th: "Growing wonderfully; tail feathers showing "well, crown, breast and wings fully and beautifully plumaged. "The breast feathers are pale orange, tipped with deep "orange. It is lively and strong, as evidenced by the fact that "it quickly nipped my finger when I attempted to remove it "from the log."

The bird has now reached an age that too often handling would hurry it prematurely from the log, and so my next entry is when it has wandered out into the world for itself.

June 13th, 1912: "The bird leaves the nest log for "the first time, is very active, in full feather and of beauti-"ful plumage. Its black beak appears to be just on the change "to adult colour, a rosy tip just visible at the end."

July 3rd: "The lower mandible now shows a decided "rosy tinge, whilst the upper resembles somewhat the bloom "upon a ripe peach."

Readers will gather from my notes that having found the eggs in the log on March 26th, and the young bird quite a fortnight old on May 3rd, the parent bird had scarcely commenced incubation at time of discovering the eggs, allowing three weeks for incubation, and, the young bird remained in the log eight weeks before it ventured out into the world alone.

It was a charming bird, showing parentages distinctly, and remained in the collection until the whole were dispersed, an occurrence no doubt fresh in the minds of many fanciers. The diet consisted of milk sop, *i.e.*, Nestlé's condensed milk, sponge cake, or Osborne biscuits, or "Banana Crystals" made quite liquid, and sufficient Nestlé's added to give it a full sweetened flavour. This, and a little fruit, such as banana, sweet orange, pear or grape, was the stock diet of all the Lories and Lorikeets. As a further inducement to the parent birds to feed their young, I placed daily in their aviary an additional bowl of food, consisting of, sponge cake, honey, and Horlick's Malted milk, prepared thus: one teaspoonful of Honey, two teaspoonsful of Horlick's mixed in sufficient hot water to thoroughly moisten the sponge cake. The quantity of sponge cake was about the size of four penny cakes, and on these foods the birds throve wonderfully, as my notes indicate.

Memories of a Trip in Argentina.

By the Hon. Mary C. Hawke.

I promised our Editor some time ago I would try and write some notes of the Argentine birds I saw during my travels. I hoped to try and classify them on my return to England, but I found that there was no chance of obtaining a book on the S. American birds, but through the kindness of Mr. Page I glanced through Dr. Sclater's "Birds of Argen-

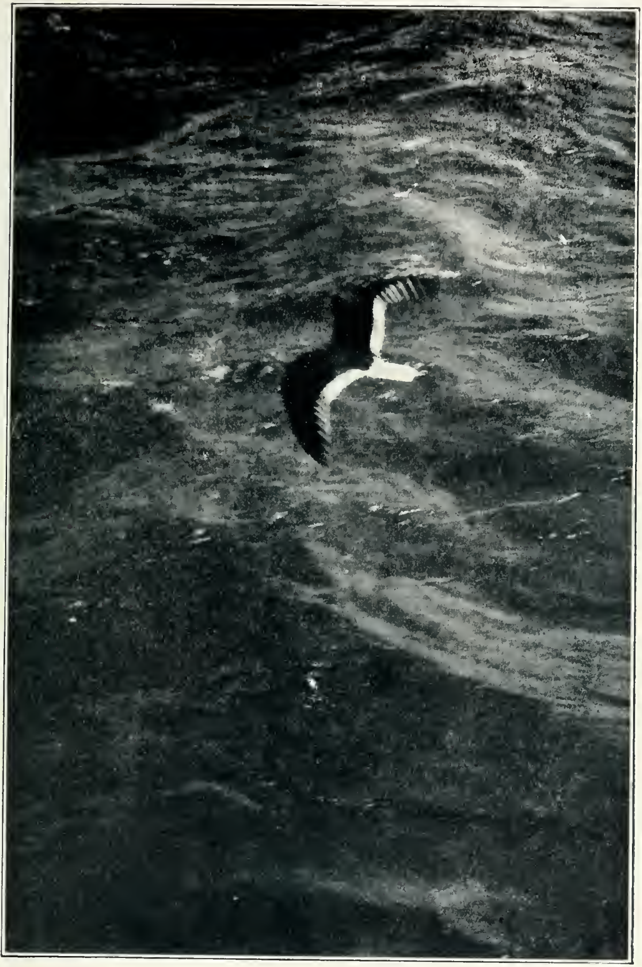


Photo by H. Whistler.

Hemprich's Gull (*Larus hemprichi*). *Vide page 176.*

tina," and certain vols. of B.M. Cat., at the Zoological Society's Library.

At one of the ports on the way to Buenos Ayres, a man brought on board a tame Cow-bird and a Hangnest; he asked about £2 each for them! I think he sold the Cow-bird. At Buenos Ayres I went to the Zoo, and in a very large flight saw Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Pope (*Paroaria larvata*), and Red-crested (*P. cucullata*); also a bird similar to an English Thrush, Cow-birds, etc. In another large aviary there were some very fine Vultures and other birds of prey.

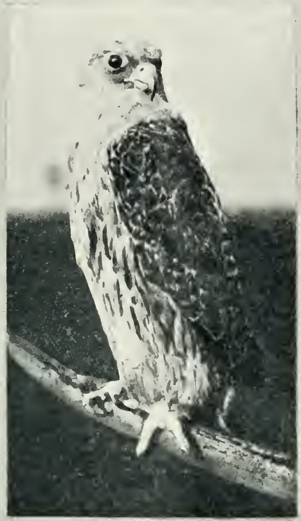
I went a twenty-four hours journey by train north of B.A. to Santos, Province of Santa Fé. The most noticeable birds are the Little (Burrowing) Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia*), that are out all day, sitting on posts; they never take their eyes off you, flying up into the air and down again to the same perch, uttering their cry; they sit also at the top of their holes, as they nest in the ground. The other is the Garancho, a species of Vulture, but it is a handsome bird without a bare neck; it is a useful scavenger, and can scent or see a dead animal miles away. Then there is the Oven Bird (*Funarius rufus*), rather like a Thrush, only smaller, and more ruddy in colour; they build their curious oven-nests of mud, on posts or branches of trees. They are very cheerful birds, and when they meet after being separated from each other they put their bills up in the air, side by side, and scream. They have most peculiar notes, somewhat like a Curlew's call. Riding through the camp one notices Scissor-birds, "Widow" birds, which are pure white and have a little black on their wings, and people say they cannot be kept in cages, Jay-Thrushes, Flamingos, Ibises; and Storks in the swamps, Woodpeckers, which are all called "Carpentarias," a few Green Parrakeets, and once I saw some Passerine Parrakeets (*Psittacula passerina*). There were other birds that looked as if they belonged to the Shrike-tribe. All the Peons have an Amazon Parrot hung up outside their mud huts, and occasionally one sees a tame Cow-bird; these birds sing very well and when really tame can fly loose round a house like a tame Jackdaw in England. One sees large flocks of these flying about and wonders why the natives want so much for their tame birds (about £2). In the north one saw crested birds, like Larks, and twice I saw what I think was a Flycatcher, a most beautiful bird with a bright grey back and a lovely crimson breast; its local name is "blood-of-an-ox." There is also a bird with a long tail, similar in its habits to our Magpie, and a pair fly about with nearly always five young ones with them, and I believe are called the "Seven Sisters." I have omitted to mention the Plover, there are many of them flying gracefully about.

Then I moved to another place, still up North, called Vera, this is all forest country, and I saw beautiful Woodpeckers, lots of Red-crested (*Paroaria cucullata*) and Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*). I never saw many red in either place. The small birds were more difficult to see as one rode along.

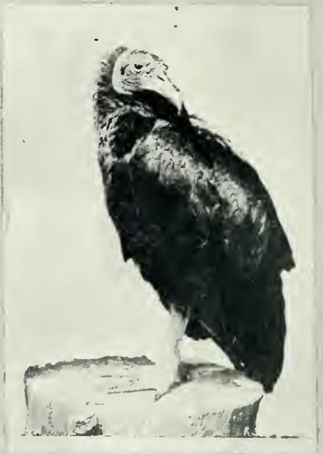
I wanted to take some birds to England, and in a small town I saw two Thrushes in a large cage, one in poor health (I think they were fed on bread and milk), and a pair of Brown, Black, and White Grosbeaks, size of a Canary; and two hen Yellow Siskins, the latter four birds in excellent condition; I put the four seed-eaters with two cock Siskins (the adult) that I bought in a small canary cage; the two Thrushes I put in an old cage, open and quite small, with two perches. I fed them on eggs and sweet biscuit, and when I arrived back in B.A., I bought some dog biscuit and mixed that with egg; they recovered their health, on this mixture, and fruit, and soon began to record their song. I learn from a friend in B.A. that the Thrush with the whitey breast was called a "Sorcal" and that they are excellent singers. I made out one was the White-bellied Thrush (*Turdus albiventris*) and the other the Ruddy Thrush (*T. rufiventris*).

At Santos on the way back I bought some Sugar-birds, and Tanagers that did very well, but I regret that four out of the six died, of fits, seven months later, when in apparently good condition. I think the cause was over-eating.

Alas! The Thrushes got burnt with my aviary!! The "Sorcal" turned out a beautiful singer. The people out there have no idea how to feed soft-bills, and though one wants, one cannot bring or obtain the cocoons. This June I received six beautiful Yellow and Black Hawfinches, from the Cordoba Hills, and I am glad to say, five are alive (2 ♂ and

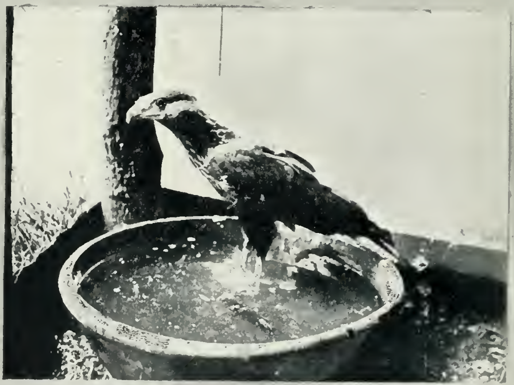


Gyr-Falcon.



Urubu or Black Vulture.

Photos by F. Dawson Smith.



Audubon's Caracara.

3 ♀), in good health, and condition, and are beginning to sing. In their native country they are called "King of the Woods."

In the Argentine no one seems to know the name of the birds, they are called "Cardinals," "Carpentaries," "Sorcals," etc. I was in the country from March to the end of May, late summer and autumn, so the birds were not breeding, though in May I saw an Oven bird carrying mud to its nest.

Three Uncommon Pets.

THE GYR-FALCON, THE URUBU, AND THE CARACARA.

By F. Dawson-Smith.

From the large variety of carnivorous birds which I have kept, three occupy foremost places, by reason of their extreme docility and sociability. These are the Gyr-Falcon,* the Urubu, or Black Vulture and the Audubon's Caracara. The first named is, without doubt, the noblest of the three, and and a king among Falcons. Mine was the Icelandic† variety (*Falco islandus*). I opened her travelling case, when she arrived, with extreme caution, expecting a fierce, wild bird; and was agreeably surprised to find a gentle creature sitting on the perch, which she seemed in no hurry to vacate, merely turning her head in order to watch my movements. She was rather dirty in her plumage, which did not show to advantage at first. For a fortnight I vainly waited for her to bathe and cleanse herself, but she evinced no desire to do this, so, with the courage, born of desperation, I decided to undertake the cleansing job myself. Glancing at her talons made me dubiously wonder who would come through the ordeal victorious. But I need not have feared. She proved most obliging. I caught her easily, and sponged her with water, with the result that she acquired a great liking for it, and, afterwards frequently splashed happily in the big shallow bath, and developed into a glorious bird. She grew so exceedingly tame that she would allow me to sit with my arm round her—(I am, of course, referring to a bird!)—and she never attempted to claw or bite. A bird or rat would always tempt her, and she would run along the perches on the ground, to take the dainty morsel from my head. We allowed her to run loose occasionally, but she never wandered away. In my opinion the Gyr-Falcon is the finest, noblest and most docile of all the Falcon tribe.

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* Gyr-Falcon (*F. gyrfalco.*) † Icelandic Falcon (*F. Islandus.*)

The Urubu or Black Vulture (*Catharistes atratus*) is a South American species, and cannot, by any stretch of the imagination be called handsome. But, all the same, he is a very fine fellow. He is exceedingly tame, which makes him a great favourite. His bare neck and sombre black plumage are not calculated to win admirers, but he is very sociable, dwelling amicably with my Buzzards and Caracara. He feeds on raw flesh, rats or mice, and is especially partial to dead lambs. This is not such an expensive diet as you would imagine, seeing that in the early lambing season, many of the animals die, and I can buy them for a penny each! The beak and talons of the Black Vulture are nothing like as powerful as those of a true Falcon, and apparently would not suffice to do material damage to a live animal of much size. After meals he spreads his wings and remains for a long time on the stumps of a tree in that fashion, resembling an old black coat hanging up to dry. He always runs up to greet anyone he knows, in a most friendly and engaging manner. In Peru and Jamaica the Uruba is protected under severe penalties, which can be readily understood, when it is explained that these birds perform the whole duty of scavengers in the streets.

The Audubon's Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway*) is always sure of admiration, owing to his attractive colouring. I wondered *why* he was named "Caracara," and conclude it comes from his own peculiar cry. It is both comical and interesting to watch him when he "calls." The moment I enter his aviary with food at meal time, he throws his head right back, and, with head and neck bent on his back, he gives a kind of prolonged rattling "caracara." He is as tame as he is handsome, which is saying a good deal. He comes from Central America, and resembles a Vulture in some of his habits. Nothing in the way of raw meat comes amiss to him, but he prefers dead birds if allowed a choice. He keeps himself in excellent condition, bathing and preening, and sunning himself. The claws of a Caracara are comparatively short, and this enables him to run long distances. In the aviary he spends quite half the time on the ground, unlike the Gyr-Falcon, who was never content until she had alighted on the highest perch she could find.

Easy to keep, attractive in appearance, and exceedingly tame, these three birds make excellent and quaint pets or anyone who can obtain a supply of fresh raw meat, birds, rats, &c. Of course such birds require plenty of room, and a large shallow pan of water for bathing and drinking. I do not advise town dwellers to keep them, but to those who, like myself, live in the country, the care of these birds presents no difficulties, and very little expense.

Breeding of the Grey Waxbill.

(*Estrilda cinerea*).

By W. A. Bainbridge.

In the aviary there were three of these Waxbills, I believe a cock and two hens, but, not expecting them to breed, I never troubled to catch them up and sex them until they had begun to build, when it seemed too late, as the catching and introduction of a fourth might have done more harm than the presence of an odd bird.

In February and March, despite the weather, they began to build in a corner on the floor of the shed, but a pair of cross-mated Hey's Partridge and California Quail, taking a fancy to the same place, the Waxbills had to give way. They did not seem to mind much, merely going to the opposite corner and starting again, this, however, they decided was too near the door and their quarters were again shifted; this time a nest was built under a bush, but still in a corner of the aviary and under cover.

On March 31st I decided to put some pea sticks along the back of the covered flight, the floor of which is sand, about 5 inches deep. On April 1st the Grey Waxbills again decided that their quarters were unsatisfactory, and another nest was started behind the pea sticks, but still on the floor and again in a corner.

Although the nest in each case was quite easy to see when in the aviary, they were very secretive about their building operations, and, it was some time before I found out to whom the nest belonged, but I think that both birds, if not all three, took part in its construction.

This nest, the last to be built, seemed to give them little satisfaction for they went on adding to it until the ground base of it was about 12in. x 6in. and 6in. high.

By this time my interest had waned, it seemed to be merely a game of which they could not tire, and the fact that the nest could only be seen from the inside of the aviary, and, that the opening of the door was evidently the signal for them to leave it and retire to the other end of the aviary, was not calculated to inspire me with hope.

On July 23rd while paying a visit to the Jacarinis and supplying them with mealworms, I noticed a Waxbill fly to, but not into, the nest with what looked like a crushed up mealworm, and, again *I hoped*.

Two days later the question was settled, as they were seen to enter the nest with food; all three adults now became much tamer, coming almost to my feet for mealworms and spiders; when they had secured one, they would retire and bite it up, and, in about four or five minutes time go to the nest and then return for more.

I left home about this time but heard that two young left the nest on August 3rd, four days later they were both dead and with them my hopes.

A surprise, however, was in store for me, as on August 16th, two more young left the nest, one more vigorous than the other, but both were strong and vigorous.

On August 22nd, being at home for one day, I noticed the parents feeding both with mealworms and seed, but chiefly the latter, the favourite being flowering grass, dock, etc., but now only two birds seemed to be feeding and not the three as before, so I presume that the last couple of youngsters were from a different hen to the first, but of this I cannot be sure.

The period of incubation I cannot give for reasons stated above.

The young left the nest ten days after I first saw them feed, but, of course, they may have then been hatched several days.

They were seen to feed themselves on August 29th.

which is thirteen days after leaving the nest, and were then taking white millet.

The parent birds always had access to the usual seeds, and were seen to feed the young on mealworms, spiders, half-ripe flowering grass and dock seeds; ants' eggs (alive and preserved), were also there during the whole period they were rearing the young.

Nestling plumage: The young on leaving the nest were as follows: breast and abdomen light grey, wings and back light brown-grey, tail brown with some blackish feathers in it, beak black, throat light grey with two darkish lines, like an inverted v (thus Λ) from the base of the beak descending a short distance.

Editorial.

NESTING: Few aviculturists will have profited to any appreciable extent from the fine weather of the past few weeks, as most of the birds either having just moulted or being in the moult (the moult has been early this year), are mostly not on nesting intent.

RED-CRESTED CARDINALS (*Paroaria cucullata*). Our member Mr. B. Hamilton Scott seems to be very fortunate with this species, most seasons, a few are reared in his aviary, the past season has been no exception, for, on August 7th, there were three fine full grown young ones, practically fending for themselves.

COCKATEELS: Mr. B. H. Scott's old pair of Cockateels have again proved prolific, having fully reared thirteen young birds from three nests, broods of four, five and four respectively, and have gone to nest again.

GREY WAXBILL (*Estrilda cinerea*). Mr. Bainbridge has two young of this species on the wing fending for themselves, for details see page 283. We know of no previous record of this, freely imported species, having been bred in Great Britain. If any member knows of such will they kindly send in details at once? Mr. Bainbridge also has one young Gouldian Finch, and Diamond Doves on the wing.

LINEOLATED PARRAKEETS: Miss M. E. Baker has had one young bird of this species reared to fend for itself, unfortunately when over three months old, it got accidentally drowned. A detailed account will appear in a near issue. We cannot call to mind a previous instance of a young bird of this species having been reared to fend for itself, if any reader knows of such an instance will they please notify us at once.

RED-HEADED (*Amadina erythrocephala* x RIBBON (*A. fasciata*) FINCH HYBRID: Miss A. B. Smyth has kindly sent us the preserved specimen, referred to in her letter, "Current Notes," in "Correspondence" section of this issue. The bird is in partially mature plumage, and with the exception of size and the crimson band across the throat, favours the Red-headed Finch. It is about the same length as the Ribbon Finch, is stouter built, and has a larger head and longer tail, which gives it the appearance of being larger. It has the white throat, barred with black and crimson band across of the Ribbon Finch; the chin is grey-brown; the head is grey-brown, and red finely barred with dark brown; thus the feathers of the top of the head are grey-brown at base, up to about three sixteenths inch from tip, here a dark brown line crosses, following by a broad band of reddish-buff, merging into the darkish line at tip—thus this specimen had it lived to reach full maturity, would doubtless have had the head mottled grey-brown, dark brown and reddish, with a broad reddish-crimson band across the throat—the mantle and back are dull brown, upper tail coverts pale buffish-brown with a sub-marginal line of dark brown on most of the feathers, tail, dark-brown, tipped with pale-buff-brown, the two outer feathers also having their outer webs margined with the same colour; wings, dull brown, with the flights dark brown, the latter having lighter margins, the coverts broadly tipped with light brown, succeeded by a dark brown line above the light tip; the breast and abdomen are warm brown, merging into pale buff at the ventral region; the former already having many of the light spots margined with dark brown of the Reddish Finch, but while it is somewhat unsafe to generalise on a specimen not yet in fully mature plumage, it would appear that the spotting of the undersurface would be neither so regular, nor the spots so light as those of *A. erythrocephala*. Mr. W. T. Page bred this hybrid in 1907, and a plate and description of it appeared on page 281 of *Bird Notes*, Vol. VI., but in his case the parentage was transposed, viz, Ribbon x Red-headed Finch. It would appear from the specimens we have seen or read descriptions of that individual specimens of these hybrids would vary considerably in plumage.

ERRATA: Page 236, line 32, delete "comes"

" 256, line 31, for "are as follow," read *are as follows*:

" 261, line 12, for "Sikhim," read *Sikkim*.

" 270, line 21, for "*Junco hymenalis*" read *Junco hiemalis*.

Correspondence.

PARRAKEETS, ETC., AT WOBURN ABBEY.

Sir.—I see that there are one or two slight errors in the note on the breeding of Parrakeets, etc., here this season. The Stanleys were bred in an aviary, not at liberty, and the Roseate Cockatoos reared young in 1912. This year I had bad luck with them, the hen dying egg-bound in February—the usual fate of hen Roseates at liberty, which, in the *second* season, always try to nest too early, and as a rule pay the penalty in the way referred to. I obtained another hen from the Zoological Gardens, but, after staying about for a few days, she went clean away, taking the cock with her, and I never heard of either again.

The Gang-Gang deserted her nest on account of illness, for we have now discovered her to be suffering badly from tuberculosis, which is most unfortunate. On two previous occasions (in 1911 and 1912) she had nested and sat full time, but the eggs were infertile as her mate was a cripple and had lost a leg. This year she was paired to a fine strong bird, and I had great hopes of success, not foreseeing the catastrophe which has overtaken her.

In reply to Mrs. Hartley's letter, I regret to say I have had no answer about the cock Turquoisine and fear that he must therefore have succumbed during the past winter. I do not think he ever went to the Zoological Gardens. It is sad that aviculturists both in England and on the Continent failed to realize the approaching extinction of this lovely Parrakeet, and made no serious attempt to breed sufficient members in captivity to avert a catastrophe; it might so easily have been done.

The same remark applies, to a certain extent, to the Carolina Conure, although on account of its destructive habits, unpleasant voice, and not particularly attractive plumage, it is perhaps not very surprising that it did not find sufficient admirers to save it from its fate.

Woburn Abbey, Woburn. TAVISTOCK.

August 22nd, 1913.

GREAT TITS (*Parus major*) IN A GARDEN.

Sir.—A pair of Great Tits made their nest, this spring, deep down in the cleft of a stump, which had once belonged to a huge Portugal Laurel; it had been cut low, and, close to it (part of the same tree) another trunk, supported a couple of climbing roses planted at the base, making a partial screen to hide the birds from prying eyes. It was very interesting and amusing to watch their manœuvres before they would venture to dart in behind the screen with the food they had brought for their young ones; sometimes hesitating a minute or two on the outskirts, perched on a twig at a little distance, or flitting up and down uneasily as if they thought themselves observed. They were generally from five to eight minutes absent collecting food, and occasionally both birds returned at the same time. After a week or ten days, to our sorrow and regret, they disappeared and have not been seen anywhere near the garden since. A cat prowling near is supposed to have been the cause of their disappearance, and one fears may prevent them again building in the same spot.

The Tit family seem very shy and retiring in their habits, and so quick and active that it is difficult to follow their movements, and one felt an additional pleasure in being able to observe them more closely even for a few days.

Carrowden Castle, Aug. 8, 1913. (Hon. Mrs.) WARD.

Re MENU FOR CAGE BIRDS.

Sir,—I was very much interested by Mrs. Hartley's letter on the above subject. As at present I have an unheated aviary, with insufficient shelter for the more delicate species during the winter months, I am obliged to keep them in cages in the house. In addition to the bill of fare she mentions I give hay seed, which is much appreciated by the birds. There is always a piece of rock salt in the cage, which is eaten greedily by Gouldians and Zebra-finches. (I first gave it to Gouldians after seeing it recommended as an article of diet for them in *Aviaries and Aviary Life*, and they seemed so pleased at its introduction that I have never let them be without it since). I also bake all the egg-shells I can collect in the oven, then break them up fine and scatter them on the cage floor. I could never get my birds to eat the dried Ants' "eggs"—at least only a few seemed to fancy them, so I only supply these about three times a week. Mealworms cut up into quite tiny pieces are greedilly eaten; in this state they are a great treat for even the smallest of Waxbills. In the cage I am also careful to provide baskets and coconut shells for the birds to sleep in. They certainly repay all my trouble and care by keeping and looking very fit and well.

If anyone has any fresh ideas or suggestions to offer I do hope they will write and do so. It is so interesting to know how people in a similar position to oneself (without large aims, etc.) meet and surmount their difficulties.

Great Bookham, Surrey, (Lady) EVELINE MALDEN.
August 26, 1913.

THE COLLARED PIGMY OWLET.

Sir.—Do any of our members possess live specimens of the Collared Pigmy Owlet (*Glaucidium brodiei*, Burton)?—a fairly common species extending right along the Himalayas from Hzara on the West to Sikkim, Assam, Burma, and China on the East. Because it would be interesting to learn from observation of living specimens whether I am right in supposing the markings on the nape to be protective in character. These markings are thus described in the Fauna of British India, Birds, Vol. III, p 308—"a black spot on each side of the nape, followed by a rufous half-collar formed by deep buff feathers with brown borders"; and again in Hume's "Rough Notes" p. 417—"A broad, rufous buff, half-collar at the base of the neck behind, including in it two large black or blackish brown blotches."

Yet neither of these two descriptions (probably taken from dry skins in which the following characteristic is not noticeable) mention the fact that these markings form the clear representation of an Owl-face, the dark spots becoming eye-disks. I noticed this at once on picking up the first specimen I met with and saw the owl-face clearly every time that I held the bird at arm's length.

It seems to me not improbable that such a double-faced aspect saves the bird from a certain amount of annoyance: for it is a markedly diurnal species and as such much worried by small birds, many of which may be prevented from swooping at the back of the owl's head under the impression that the owl is watching it and ready: this theory does not seem to me as far fetched as many bearing on protective colouration, and observation of live birds in captivity would probably strengthen it. Hence I bring it to your notice as the optical delusion formed by the markings, if noticed, does not appear to have been recorded anywhere.

HUGH WHISTLER,
Indian Police.

Jhelum, Punjab, India. August 5th, 1913.

CURRENT NOTES.

Sir,—Re my Red-headed x Ribbon Finch Hybrids, I have been unfortunate enough to lose the male when he was ten and a half weeks old; I fear he got injured during a night scare which took place in my aviary; he was well and singing the day before, but the morning following the scare he was looking quite ill, and in spite of all I could do for him he died the same day. It was most disappointing as he was changing into adult plumage, his head was becoming quite red and the spots of the undersurface becoming quite distinct. Two hens are doing well and are now twelve weeks old.

Now, August 26th, they have another brood, four I think, so I hope there may be another male among them; the parents are excellent feeders, so I am counting on them being reared.

There was a brood of Cordon Bleus, but I found them thrown out of the nest, and the parent birds are now nesting again.

I have now two true pairs of Red-faced Love-birds *(Agapornis* *pullaria*), and as they have picked out their mates and are properly paired up I am hoping they may nest soon.

My Marsh Birds, both the Crimson- and Yellow-breasted, have now settled down nicely, but they were very wild on arrival.

(Miss) ALFREDA B. SMYTH.

Catford, S.E. Aug. 26, 1913.

AVIARY NOTES. 1913.

Sir.—I have had a bad breeding season, and all I can report is briefly as follows :—

Siskin Hybrid : A Hooded Siskin (*Chrysomitris cucullatus*) x Canary hybrid is now about eight weeks old, and shows its parentage very clearly, but has no red about it up to the present. Perhaps it is only a hen bird.

Hooded Siskins (*Chrysomitris cucullatus*). A pair of this species nested in my new aviary, which you so kindly planned for me. The hen is incubating two eggs which are due to hatch on September 2nd.

I have had two nests of Zebra Finches and plenty of Budgerigars.

Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*) are on eggs, as also are Gouldian Finches and Red Avadavats.

Long-tailed Grassfinches, Cordon Bleus, Green Avadavats, and Diamond Finches have all built, but no signs of eggs as yet.

Reed Buntings (*Emberiza schœniclus*), A pair of this species nested, laid and hatched out four eggs, but failed to rear.

A Himalayan Goldfinch (♂) mated with an English Goldfinch, have built a very pretty nest, but there are no eggs up to the present.

A Green Singingfinch (*Serinus icterus*) mated with a Grey Singingfinch (*S. leucopygius*), and the Grey (♀) built a diminutive nest and laid a clutch of three eggs, but deserted them.

This is all I have to report at present.

St. John's Vicarage, Hollington. (Rev.) JOHN M. PATERSON.
August 23rd, 1913.

LATEST RESULTS.

Sir,—In response to your enquiries my latest results are as follow :—

Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*) have had one or two nests, as usual, and in accordance with precedent (in my aviary), there has been no result.

White Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora*, var. *alba*). These laid six eggs and sat for three weeks, when I cleared them all out and found, on blowing them, all to be infertile. [Probably your birds are two hens. —Ed.]

Cuba Finches (*Phonipara canora*). One pair at least have young in the nest.

Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*). This species have reared two broods.

Cutthroats (*Amadina fasciata*). These have young in the nest.

Pelzeln's Saffron Finches (*Sycalis pelzelni*), have three or four young in the nest barrel. They have already reared four strapping youngsters, which I shall have to part with, but sex cannot be distinguished at present, at least I think not. They were reared on ants' eggs, supplied three times a day and a little seed. They were continually catching insects and took these to their young.

Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*) have eggs, but I begin to fear they are infertile

I also fancy both the Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*) and Masked Grassfinches (*Poephila personata*) are nesting,

Leadenham House, Lincoln. J. SHERARD REEVE.
August 26th, 1913.

NESTING OF PECTORAL FINCHES (*Munia pectoralis*).

Sir,—In the early part of July I missed a hen Pectoral Finch and could not find her; as the cock seemed listless and unconcerned, I came to the conclusion that she was dead, though I could not see her lying about anywhere. A few days later however I went into the aviary and there was the hen, but the cock bird was missing! I immediately suspected that they were nesting, but where was the nest? After hunting about I, at last, found that they had constructed a most curious sort of nest. It was placed very cunningly just under the top foliage of a box tree and was quite hidden. The nest was shaped like a slipper; there was a platform of woven grass and then a covered toe part, which was the nest chamber, for therein I found three young birds, apparently two or three days old. These were reared and duly left the nest, but one died, and since then I have been unfortunate enough to lose the hen. The other two young birds are doing well and appear very healthy and robust.

Aviculture has its joys, but no less its disappointments. I have been fortunate enough to breed some very good Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*), but Zebra Finches seem very shy with me season.

Brentwood, August 28, 1913. W. T. ROGERS.

BIRDS WITH PINK PLUMAGE.

Sir,—Quite by chance, as it were, I can add to your list of birds which wear pink. For the last week or so there have been some large Storks on the river here and as I was not quite sure of the species, I called a boat this evening and set out to secure a specimen. After some manœuvering round sandbanks and reed patches I "spotted" about a dozen large birds on a sandbank, and, drawing near was able to make out through the glasses that they were the Storks in question. With them were a pair of White Ibis (*Ibis melanocephala*). As they did not seem shy and there was no cover, the plan was adopted of getting above them up stream and then punting down so as to pass within range; as this manœuvre was being carried out I had ample opportunity of watching the curious big birds through the glasses and could see a large patch of true pink on the lower part of the folded wing which would surely serve to identify the bird if no specimen were obtained. As we approached some of the Storks took wing to another sandbank lower down, and just as we were nearly in shot the remainder rose, to settle again some three hundred yards down the river near the first lot. We continued to drift with the stream and this time the manœuvre was crowned with success, one of the Storks falling heavily to my first barrel. It proved to be—as I suspected—*Pseudotantalus leucocephalus*, Pennant, The Painted

Stork or Pelican Ibis, and in the adult the tertiaries are pink with white borders. As I write the bird is being skinned.

Jhelum, Punjab, India, June 24, 1913 HUGH WHISTLER.

[The above letter, owing to prolonged absence from home, got covered up with a mass of other correspondence and has only just "turned up" again—it refers to a letter "No Pink Birds" by Mrs. E. A. Hartley on page 93 of current Vol. Ed.]

From All Sources

THE WHEATEAR (*Saxicola oenanthe*, Linn.)

DOWNLAND SHEPHERDS AND "SUSSEX ORTOLAN."—These it would seem, are early days for the departure of our summer guests, but already many of the migratory birds are on their way to warmer climes. The Cuckoos began to leave us in July, and very soon the last of them the young birds of the year will be gone; the earlier broods of Swallows have been assembling preparatory to their oversea journey for many days past; and the Swifts whose stay is the shortest of all, are now represented only by a few solitary pairs who have got behindhand with their family business.

Each and all of these familiar summer visitors become daily more conspicuous by their absence, but there is one other bird—the Wheatear—whose movements at this season are just as surely governed by that instinct which is so unerring in its rule. Only those who wander upon the downs near southern-coasts make the the acquaintance of this little sprite of lonely places, and even then, were it not for the conspicuous blotch of white upon his back, it would be very easy to overlook the "Sussex Ortolan."

This latter name the Wheatear earned, of course, in the days when his flesh was as highly prized as that of the bird from which he took his once popular title. In bygone days a dish of Wheatears supplied the "*piece de resistance*" at all important feasts and public banquets, and fashionable folk used to journey to Brighton to tickle their palates with this toothsome dainty just as in later times they went to Colchester to feast on oysters and to Greenwich for whitebait dinners.

The trapping of Wheatears was, in fact, a regular business among the shepherds of the down country, who in a good season made far more by following this "side-line" to their regular occupation than by tending sheep. The traps were formed by cutting shallow trenches in the turf in the form of a "T," the turves being replaced so as to form a branching tunnel, with the daylight showing through at each of the three openings. In the darkest part of these tunnels horse-hair nooses were set, and the wheatears, who never can resist the temptation to explore any underground passage, were caught as they ran through from one end to the other. On some of the high downs near the coast, notably at Beachy Head, at Birling Gap, near Seaford, and about Rottingdean, the shepherds made so many of these "coops," as they were called, that the downs had the appearance of having been cultivated, but in September, when the season, which began in July, was over, the sods of turf were carefully replaced-

Extraordinary catches of Wheatears were sometimes made, especially in dull weather, when the birds are most apt to run into hiding. The shepherds used to think they had done well if they could take three or four dozen birds in a day, but an old shepherd who worked on Westside Farm, near Brighton, once took as many as thirteen dozen between dawn and dusk, and as the price was then eighteenpence a dozen he equalled his weeks wages in a single day. This record however was easily eclipsed by another shepherd, who near East Dean during a great flight of the birds took nearly a hundred dozen in the space of 24 hours. As time went on the birds became scarce, as the result of this heavy annual toll on their numbers, but this was not the only reason for the discontinuance of this wholesale slaughter.

The passing of the Wild Birds' Protection Act made the capture of Wheatears too risky a business in the early part of the season, when the close time was still in force—that is, up to the beginning of August—and later, when the law permitted the shepherds to begin trapping, the farmers decided to put an end to it, partly on account of the damage done to the pasture of the downs, and partly because it was found that the shepherds often neglected their proper work to supplement their earnings at the expense of the Wheatears. It is said that within quite recent years a little trapping still continued to be done on the sly at the instigation of the dealers, but one may now walk from one end of the downs to the other and never see so much as the scar in the turf left by the shepherd's "coop."—*From the "Standard" August 21st, 1913, per Rev. G. H. Raynor.*

FIRE CAUSED BY A BIRD'S NEST.—The Folkestone fire brigade was yesterday called to a fire caused by a bird's nest. The outbreak occurred at 2, Priory Gardens, a boarding-house on the sea front, occupied by Mr. W. R. Record. The bird's nest had been built just below a wooden window-sill, and was ignited by sparks from a chimney. In turn the window-sill caught alight. The fire was, however, subdued before any extensive damage was done. *From the "Standard," August 13, 1913, per Rev. G. H. Raynor.*

MYSTERY OF THE SWIFT (*Cypselus apus*, Linn.)

CHANGING HABITS.—Just now a special interest attaches to the movements of the Swifts, whose time of departure has arrived Usually by the end of July there is a perceptible thinning of the ranks of these most sombre-looking, yet most merry, of our summer bird-visitors, and by the time that the second week of August has run its course nothing more than an occasional straggler is to be seen.

Of late years, however, the habits of the Swifts—like those of a few other birds of the migratory kind appear to be undergoing some sort of change. It has ever been a mystery why these birds, which are the latest of all of the so-called "swallow tribe," never appear in this country until May is almost or actually here ; and equally mysterious is their apparent anxiety to leave our shores while summer is still with us. But two years ago it was noticed in many parts of the country that while the chimney Swallows and House Martins appeared to be in an unusual hurry to depart, the Swifts seemed to be inclined to linger beyond the usual date of their going. In the third week of August a few pairs of the birds were still to be seen even many miles inland, and the last stray members of the tribe did not finally disappear until the very end the month.

Last year this lingering disposition on the part of the Swift was even more marked, for there was none of the usually perceptible decrease in numbers at the end of July, and many flocks of seven or eight were to be observed any evening up to August 28. After that only a few stragglers were to be seen, and by the first of September the last Swift seemed to have found its way out of the country. It may be, of course, that last year nesting was delayed owing to bad weather, or the young birds in so wet and cold a summer did not grow at the usual rate, so that their parents were compelled to tarry longer than usual. But that cannot have been the case either this year or in 1911—at any rate at the present moment all the young Swifts would seem to be out of the nest and fully grown. Some of the birds—possibly the bulk of them– have already gone, but it will be interesting to see whether any of them remain so long with us on this occasion as a year ago. Ten years back it would have been deemed a very uncommon circumstance if a single Swift had been observed as late as the third or fourth week in August, and one would like to discover the reason for this more dilatory behaviour on the part of a bird ordinarily so punctual in its habits.

So far as temperature and food supply are concerned—and these are generally held to be the two most important factors in the movements of migratory birds – there seems to be no reason why the Swift should not remain in this country up to the middle or end of September. There is plenty of insect food available up till then, and neither days nor night are colder than they often are in May. On a chilly and blusterous evening in the latter month the Swifts seem just as happy as on a piping afternoon in July.

Their wonderful evolutions in the air and their joyous screaming in high falsetto are pleasant things to see and hear, so that whether they go early or late the passing of the Swifts must always be a matter for regret.—*From the "Standard," August 22, 1913, per Rev. G. H. Raynor.*

NESTLINGS' HOME IN A BATTERY.

The Royal Artillery gunners at Cliff End Battery, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight, found a nest of four Goldfinches, and placing it in a cage near the spot where they found it, discovered that the parent birds came regularly to feed their young. The cage has now been removed to the middle of the battery, and the old birds come regularly to feed the prisoners, and are quite unalarmed by the discharge of the heavy guns. The gunners are now aspiring to capture the parents in order to match them with Linnets.—*From the "Standard," September 5th, 1913, per Rev. G. H. Raynor.*

Gleanings.

[Compiled from Notes on "Cage Birds."]

Redpolls (*Linota rufescens*): My birds have at last succeeded in rearing young. The nest was made in a small basket filled with hay. They simply scooped the hay out at one end and deposited five eggs in the cavity; the eggs were laid on consecutive days, the first egg was laid July 9th, and the first egg hatched on July 21st, second and third on July 22nd, and the fourth on the 23rd, the latter only lived one day, but the other three came on rapidly, they had their eyes open, when five days old, and left the nest on August 3rd, being then twelve days old. They were reared on mixed seed, including a tablespoonful of poppy seed daily, dry ants' eggs, and greenfood.

SISKINS (*Chrysomitris spinus*): After many failures, I succeeded in rearing Siskins fairly freely. First five days young were fed entirely on pupæ of gentles; then for some days on egg; then greenfood—groundsel, etc. No hard seed allowed in the cage, when they leave the nest for six weeks.

Siskins in an aviary readily rear their young on seed, insectile mixture, greenfood, and what flies, etc., they capture in the aviary.

THE SHAMA (*Cittocincla macroura*): My Shamas have reared three fine youngsters from two nests. They are in a cold aviary, which is sheltered on one side by the house and on the other by a green-house. The cock bird has been out three winters, but the hen was only imported in the spring. While they were nesting and rearing the young, we were able to watch them from the drawing-room window, they were not at all shy.

PEKIN ROBIN (*Liothrix luteus*): My Pekin Robins are very interesting, the hen is very busy incubating and the cock in teaching an infant to fly. They are kept in an outdoor aviary, which is only used during the summer; in the winter all the birds go into a large flight cage, which stands in the conservatory. The back of the aviary is a brick wall, which is covered with ivy and *Clematis montana* and partly filled with low thick bushes. It contains besides the Pekins, pairs of Virginian Nightingales and Blue Robins, also an odd Bulbul and two Weavers. The spring was very cold, and they went to nest very early, constructing a nest of raffia grass in a thick bush; two eggs were laid and duly hatched out, but one succumbed to the bitter nights. The other was successfully reared; it was fed mostly with live ants' egg, flies, etc. Now it is out of the nest the father alone feeds it with flies, ants' eggs, peas, strawberries, etc. In the same nest Mrs. Robin is incubating another clutch of four eggs. I find them most fascinating birds.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that Members from all round the coast will note the movements of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—**on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.**—Ed.

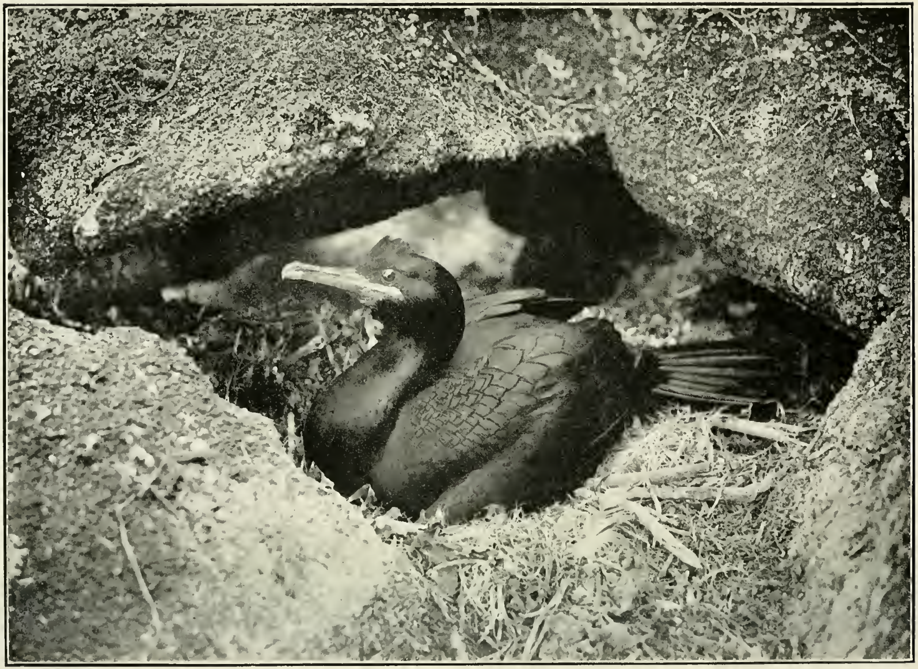
Aug. 2—I walked five miles along the shore from Cleethorpes in a southerly direction (the gatherings on the east coast of our summer visitors usually commences late in July), and saw many Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla raii*). Wheatears (*Saxicola œnanthe*), birds of the year, were in twos and threes all along the sand hills. There were very few Gulls on the shore, as they had not yet left their breeding quarters. An old disused gravel pit, where I have been accustomed to find many Sand Martins' (*Cotile riparia*) nests was quite deserted; not a solitary Martin could be found. Sandpipers (*Totanus hypoleucus*) were not numerous, there were however several Redshanks (*T. calidris*) and young Curlews *Numenius arquata*), the latter were very tame. It has been a good season for ducks; Mallard (*Anas boscas*) and Teal (*Nettion crecca*) have done very well, and, in cansepuence there was good sport on August 16th the first day of the open season.

Aug 29—Willow Wrens (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), Whitethroats (*Sylvia cinerea*) and Lesser Whitethroats (*S. curruca*) quite numerous at noon: there were three Willow Wrens, four Lesser Whitethroats and one Whitethroat on my aviaries at one time, and for the past ten days they have been in evidience at all hours of the day, A brood of Spotted Flycatchers (*Muscicapa grisola*), reared in the garden, are still here.

R. S., Cleethorpes, Aug. 29, 1912.

„ 31.—During the past fourteen days there have been quite large numbers of Willow Wrens (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), and Chiff-chaffs (*P. rufus*) to my and neighbouring gardens; both species are with us all the season and nest in and about the various gardens, but there have been large accessions from the open country recently, a sure sign that the time of their departure is getting near at hand, though odd birds linger till quite late in the year. Some have already gone as numbers have been getting smaller the last few days, but today, in spite of almost torrential rain, I observed about a dozen on or about the aviary during a short spell of sunshine. The Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla lugubris*) is quite common at Mitcham, one meets them very frequently when strolling along the roads and lanes at all periods of the year, but it is not till late summer that they become regular or frequent visitors to our gardens, though they are stray visitors all the year. This morning six of them were foraging about on the lawn, delighting us with their graceful deportment as we watched them from shelter.

W.T.P., Mitcham, August 31st, 1913.



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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Some Interesting Birds.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S. ILLUSTRATED FROM LIFE, BY H. WILLFORD.

(*Continued from page* 273).

THE COMMON SHAG OR GREEN CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax graculus*, Linn.): The Shag is well off for popular names, for it is known as the Scart, Scarf, and Crested Cormorant, as well as the designations heading this paragraph. In general habits and characteristics it resembles the Common Cormorant (*P. carbo*), but is a little smaller and has differently hued plumage. In the year 1882, two young *P. carbo* were hatched out at the London Zoo, thus a description of *P. graculus* is not out of place in an avicultural journal.

Description: *Adult.* Rich dark green with bronzy and purplish reflections, the feathers of the mantle have blackish margins; quills and tail feathers black (the Shag has only *twelve* tail feathers, the Common Cormorant *fourteen*); bill black with the base of the lower mandible and inside of mouth chrome-yellow; legs and feet black; irides green; naked skin on sides of face black thickly studded with small yellow spots. From January to May a curving forward crest adorns the forehead. Total length 27 inches, wing 10¾ inches.

The sexes are alike, but the male is distinctly the larger bird.

Young: Above brown with a greenish tinge; below ashy-brown variegated with brown; bill slender with the lower mandible yellow.

Range: Almost world-wide, but very rarely found on inland waters and may be termed an essentially marine species. It is found to a greater or lesser degree all round the rocky coasts of Great Britain. It also frequents the coasts of Iceland, Norway, Germany, Channel Islands, Russia, France, Spain, Portugal, and Morocco, etc.

The shores of the Mediterranean are occupied by a brighter form (*P. desmaresti*), but its specific distinctness is very doubtful.

Habits, etc.: Its favourite haunts are rugged, rocky coasts, and in the hollows and recesses of these it makes its nest, and rears its young—such a site is portrayed in Mr. Willford's beautiful photograph, showing a brooding Shag, which was taken this summer on the Scilly Isles—in such places the Shag is very numerous, more so than the Common Cormorant, and is more inclined to be gregarious than the latter species. The nest is a conglomeration of sea-weed and grass matted and plastered together, and its vicinity is not pleasant to human olfactory organs, for it gives forth an atrocious foetid odour. Three to four eggs are laid, mostly oblong, but the shape is variable; of rough outside texture; there is an under shell of pale blue with a chalky-white coating. On our south coasts egg laying commences in April and young have been found by the middle of May, but the season is later in the north. The nestling is bare at first and of a purplish-black colour, but a sparse coat of dark brown down is gradually assumed; its eyes remain closed till about the fourteenth day. The method of feeding is as follows: some little time after the parent bird has fed it mounts the side of the nest, and opens its mouth to its widest extent, which the young bird enters, as far as its flapping wings permit and feeds on the macerated food in its parent's crop.

The Shag is a diving bird and in some localities is sometimes called "Diver," which designation is also applied to *P. carbo*. The action of diving is commenced by a sort of spring out of the water, it possesses the power to dive to a good depth, for it has been taken in a crab-pot fixed at twenty fathoms below the surface. It feeds on sea fish, in the capture of which it calls its diving powers into full play. Shags busily engaged, diving for prey, may be observed at most seaside resorts, where the coast is rocky, by any who care to take the trouble to look for them.

I cannot lay aside my pen without congratulating Mr. Willford on the excellent examples of his photographic skill, which illustrate these notes.

(*To be continued*).

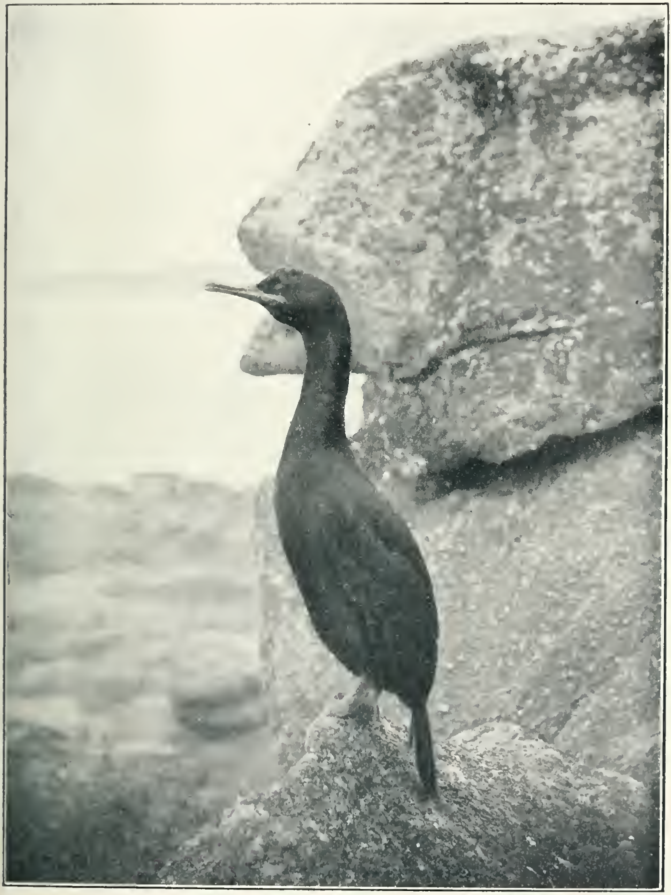
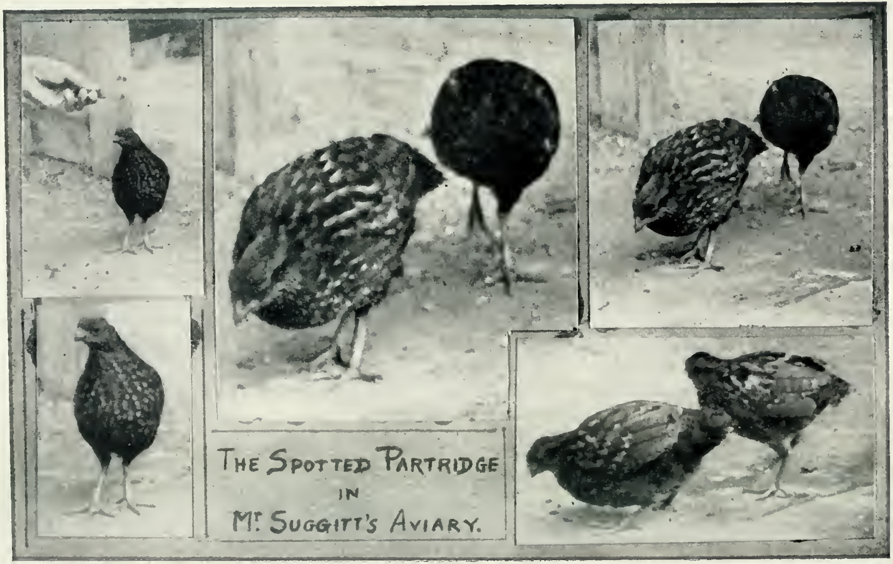


Photo by H. Willford,

The Common Shag.



THE SPOTTED PARTRIDGE
IN
Mr. SUGGITT'S AVIARY.

The Spotted Partridge

(*Odontophorus guttatus*).

By R. Suggitt.

I have had no other means of identifying this species than Mr Ogilvie-Grant's very useful little hand-book to the Game Birds, in which the distinguishing characteristics are given of every known species of Game-Bird, although the whole of the plumage is not, in many cases, fully described.

The genus *Odontophorus* comprises some fourteen species and sub-species, the range of which extends from Southern Mexico to Bolivia. The sexes are similar in plumage, or with very slight differences.

The range of *Odontophorus guttatus* is given as Central America, South Mexico, to Chiriqui.

I cannot find any record of this species having been previously imported, before I received my first specimen from Carmen Island, off the coast of Campeachy, in June, 1909. Two birds, probably a pair, were being brought over for me, but they proved to be so wild and unmanageable in their travelling-box on board ship that the larger and brighter-coloured one was killed in its mad efforts to escape, and the one that reached me had permanently injured its wings, and in addition always walked with a limp. I released it from its travelling box direct into the aviary; it gave a wild scream and rushed into the bushes, and I never saw it again for a week afterwards. This bird never got over its terror of human beings, but it became more reasonable in course of time, and afterwards took possession of three or four Californian Quail chicks, which it tended and brooded until they needed mothering no longer.

I think that this incident points to the bird being a female. She lived out of doors, summer and winter, until December 6th, 1912, three days before I received two more specimens from the same source.

I fully expected, upon opening the travelling box containing the new arrivals, to see two battered, terror-stricken, pieces of birds, but, to my surprise, both stepped calmly out of the box into the flight prepared for their reception, almost perfect in feather and so tame that they would allow their backs to be stroked. Both these birds are exactly alike in plumage, but one is slightly larger than the other. The larger one had broken its leg on board the ship; it had, however, been set so skilfully that, when the splints and wrappings were removed, a slight thickness at the place of fracture was the only remaining evidence of injury.

A rough description of the plumage is as follows:—Crest, dark brown; sides of face, paler brown; ear coverts, dark brown, a broad chestnut stripe runs from the ears down the sides of the neck; wings, brown heavily mottled with black and darker shades of brown; mantle brown with buffish-white shaft streaks to the feathers; back grey, finely mottled with brown and shading to brown on the upper tail coverts; chin, throat, and lower part of cheeks, black with white centres to the feathers; under-surface, brown with numerous buffish-white spots which become larger towards the abdomen; beak, black; feet, dark grey.

Mr. Grant describes the hind portion of the crest of the male as brick-red, and the feathers of the mantle with no buffish-white shaft-streaks, so that I am afraid that both my birds are females.

I turned them into the largest division of my aviary (46 feet by 16 feet) this year (in April). They appeared to be afraid of their new surroundings, especially of the long grass, and for some days were very wild and would probably have injured themselves, if I had not taken the precaution of clipping the flights of one wing before they were released.

However, they eventually settled down on a small portion of ungrassed ground a few feet in extent, and nothing would induce them to leave it, except to perch in the trees at night not even the almost irresistable temptaion of meal-worms, and I had to place all their food and water there. They soon became tame enough to be fed from the hand again, but several weeks elapsed before they would cautiously venture to explore other portions of the aviary; now that the grass has died down, owing to the dry summer, they wander about more freely, but still very carefully. They have not made the slightest attempt to go to nest this summer, but they are on quite affectionate terms, and caress and preen each other's plumage. This leaves me a small hope that they may yet prove to be a true pair.

Their vocabulary is an extensive one, and they are constantly "talking" to each other in a low purring voice. They are free perchers and always go to roost in the trees in the evening, quite early, often long before dusk. They live principally on maize, out of which they first eat the germs before swallowing the remainder; in addition they will take a little canary and millet. They like a sand bath, and are fond of gentles, and I believe they would risk their lives for a few mealworms.

Although they are rather bulky birds and possess a powerful beak, they have proved to be quite harmless to their fellow captives, which cannot be said of all the American Quails, for some species are quite dangerous in a mixed series. These birds are known in Campeachy by the name of "Voloctocs."

The Breeding of Barnard's Parrakeets.

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

Barnard's Parrakeet (*Barnardius barnardi*) is, perhaps, the most beautiful member of the small sub-genus of *Platycercinæ* to which it gives its name. Blues and greens of different shades are the prevailing colours in the adult cock's plumage, but there is also a good deal of yellow on the lower breast, a yellow collar, a brownish v-shaped mark at the back of the head and a broad red band above the base of the upper mandible. The hen is smaller than her mate, with a much narrower beak, and her colours are usually more subdued, there being occasionally an entire absence of blue except on the cheeks and in the wings and tail. Sometimes, however, one sees a hen, whose plumage is exceptionally bright; a bird of this description was sent to me, last spring, as a cock, and I was not surprised that her owner, who had won prizes with her on the show bench, should have been deceived in the matter of her sex. Such exceptional brilliance of plumage is not necessarily a sign of infertility—indeed, I believe I am right in saying that the lady who achieved the distinction of first breeding Barnard's in this country had a hen which was so brightly coloured that she was for a time uncertain if she possessed a true pair or not.

The young, on leaving the nest, have little trace of blue except on their cheeks, and in their tail and flight feathers. Otherwise they vary like their parents, and have the red frontal band fully developed from the first. It would be interesting to know whether this is also the case with Yellow-napes, Yellow-rumps, and Yellow-bellies. Some Bauer's x **Barnard's** hybrids, to which I shall refer again later, were different; in their case the red frontal-band was so dull at first that its outline could only be detected in certain lights, but it afterwards became much brighter. When about three months old, young Barnard's undergo a well-marked moult of the body feathers, and a good deal more blue appears on the back and wings.

The first Barnard's I ever saw alive came into my possession in the spring of 1911, and were supposed to be a pair, although I am rather inclined to think that both were females. As I wanted to see whether they could not be induced to breed at complete liberty, I cut their wings, and turned them into a large grass enclosure, hoping that by the time the autumn moult had restored their powers of flight they would have been sufficiently reconciled to their surroundings to be content to remain near home. One of them was a nice bird, and not particularly wild, as she had been kept for some time in a cage; her companion, however, though brighter in colour, was one of the smallest Barnard's I have ever seen. He (or she) never looked really well, and when the nights began to grow chilly in autumn, caught cold, and died, just as I was considering the advisability of taking him indoors. During the course of the summer a big dealer in the north had sent me a third Barnard, which he assured me he had had so long that he felt quite sorry to part with it. It was very wild, and died of septic fever almost immediately after its arrival, the only consolation being that it did not communicate the disease to anything else! About the same time, I had, however, made a more satisfactory purchase in a cock Bauer's Parrakeet, which, like the hen Barnard's, had been kept for a long time in close confinement before I bought him. Birds which have been caged generally stay much better when turned out than those which are newly imported or have been kept in aviaries. They seem less inclined to stray and are usually more tolerant of the presence of human beings.

The Bauer's showed from the first a preference for the Barnard's society, evidently considering them more nearly akin to himself than any of the other *Platycercine* Parrakeets which occupied the same enclosure. By October he and the hen Barnard's had moulted and flown out into the garden, where their friendship continued, and in February it had evidently ripened into something warmer, as he was feeding her constantly—a sure sign that a Parrakeet has accepted the lady of his choice for better, or worse. About the middle of the month the Barnard's disappeared entirely, and by carefully watching her mate we found that he was visiting a small round hole in the trunk of a beech tree, in which she had evidently made her nest. At the end of about 9 weeks he ceased to visit the hole, and as we saw nothing of either the hen or young, we began to feel rather anxious. However, towards the end of May, two fine young hybrids appeared in the garden, to be quickly followed by two more. They were considerably greener about the head than their father, but much darker than their mother. The red frontal band (which is, of course, absent in a true Bauer), was, as I have already said, very dull in colour, and hardly visible at a distance.

The hen Barnard's I did not see, myself, until the beginning of August, but I heard that she visited the garden once or twice at the end of July. Her regular appearance was quickly followed by the arrival of three more young—evidently a second brood, whose birthplace we had not discovered. These soon became independent of their parents—who were now in full moult—and joined their elder brothers and sisters; but the whole flock were not often together, five being the largest number to be seen, as a rule, at one time.

By the beginning of winter the young birds had grown considerably and were much brighter in colour than they had been on first leaving the nest; in fact they gave every promise of becoming extremely handsome, but as they were inclined to quarrel with the other Parrakeets, and as I am, moreover, not very fond of hybrids, I caught them up and disposed of them.

I have often wondered what has become of them and what they look like now that they are in full plumage.

During the autumn of the same year, I succeeded in obtaining a new cock Barnard's and two hens. With the hens I was unlucky, the best one contracting a fatal chill after she had been only a few days in my possession. The other met with an accident ,some weeks later; she was not a great loss from a breeding point of view, as she was an old bird and suffered from chronic lameness; but she was very tame and gentle—a rare quality in a *Platycercus*—and on that account I wish I could have kept her longer. The cock was also quite tame and a splendid bird into the bargain, but his best friend could not have described him as being of an engaging disposition; in fact it was his invariable custom to fly at the face of anyone who went near him and attempt to inflict a severe bite, and no amount of coaxing ever induced him to moderate his hostility in the slightest degree. He was entirely indifferent to the society of other Parrakeets, and ignored the two females of his species above mentioned. After he had spent a few weeks in an outdoor aviary, I gave him complete freedom, hoping that it would improve his temper. He stayed well and flew about the garden displaying his rainbow colour while his melodious whistle was all in keeping with the beauty of his appearance. But his character, alas! remained unchanged, and when finally he insisted on establishing himself at the lodge gates and had nearly amputated the lodgekeeper's finger and the gardener's nose, I reluctantly decided that the time had come when we must part. If he is still alive, I hope his owner loves him and is loved in return—but I fear it is unlikely. Brilliant, though tasteful in colour and markings, inoffensive if not actually attractive in voice, the *Platycerci* are, with rare exceptions, destitute of those affectionate and amiable qualities which are the saving grace of the destructive, shrieking Cockatoos and Amazons, and the redeeming virtue of the gaudy and even more vociferous Macaws.

For some weeks I was again without a cock Barnard's, but eventually I obtained a nice acclimatized bird from a gentleman who sent me at the same time, a very good Bluebonnet and the finest Pennant's I have ever seen. Later, at the dispersal of M. Pauvvel's collection I secured a perfect pair of Barnard's so that I at last possessed two of each sex, and had a good prospect of successful breeding. The first step was to catch up the cock Bauer's, who had disgraced himself by the mutilation of my only Yellow-rump and a fine Mealy Rosella, who was just about to nest; in both cases he had bitten the upper mandibles of his victims clean off at the base, rendering it absolutely necessary to destroy the unfortunate birds which were naturally quite unable to feed. Bauer's Parrakeets are terribly dangerous fighters and experts at inflicting this particular injury.

As the cock Barnard's of the new pair appeared likely to come into breeding condition sooner than the odd one, I determined, after the removal of the Bauer, to pair him to my old hen who was still at liberty; accordingly I let him out of the aviary which he and his mate had occupied; and introduced the other in his place. Things did not, however, turn out as I intended. The newly released Barnard spent his whole time trying to get back to his original wife—for which one could hardly blame him!—and completely ignored the other hen, who, now that the Bauer was gone, showed a decided preference for an odd Yellow-nape which was also flying loose in the garden. This was not at all what I wanted, so I took the hen Barnard's out of the aviary and removed her out of the sight and hearing of her too-faithful spouse. After that, matters took a more promising turn. In a very short time the cock had joined the old hen and was displaying to her, to arouse her admiration and biting her, to inspire her with respect—the invariable method of courtship followed by a *Platycercus*, whilst the Yellow-nape, finding that he was not wanted, resigned himself once more to a solitary existence.

After allowing a judicious interval to elapse in which the pair at liberty had plenty of time to get used to each other, I returned the second hen to the aviary. She was very slow in getting friendly with the cock—partly, I think, because she occasionally saw her first mate, and would have preferred to go back to him if she had been allowed, but in the end they seemed to take to one another rather better, and I gave the cock his liberty. For a day or two he stayed well enough and seemed on reasonably friendly terms with the other birds, including a fine pair of Yellow-napes, which had been out since the previous autumn. But just when I believed him to be settling down nicely, he took it into his head to make a long flight to the other side of the country, where he was fortunately captured in a brickyard, and returned to me safe and sound. After this escapade I kept him shut up with the hen for some time longer, and then let the pair out together. At first all went well: the hen showed no desire to return to her first mate, as I fully expected might happen and the cock stayed with her and made no further attempt to stray. In fact I was just beginning to contemplate two nests in the near future, when one afternoon a corpse was brought to me so fearfully mutilated that I could hardly recognise it as that of the unfortunate cock Barnard's of the second pair. It appeared that he had most unwisely quarrelled with the pair of Yellow-napes, and they had literally torn him to shreds, being still engaged in their murderous work, when some gardeners had seen them and recovered the remains. This was a sad blow, and the Yellow-napes had to depart forthwith. *Barnardius semitorquatus* is a handsome bird and some of his call-notes are really quite beautiful when heard at a little distance, but he is a fatal neighbour for large, quarrelsome *Platycereines,* which will insist on putting his all too-undoubted prowess to the test, with the most disastrous results to themselves.

The widowed Barnard's soon showed a strong desire to return to her original mate, and he, for his part, was quite agreeable. But the old hen viewed matters in a very different light, and lost no opportunity of communicating to her unfortunate rival the nature of her views on the subject of bigamy. It was only after many painful and stormy domestic scenes that peace was restored by her going to nest in the crown of a pollard elm, which grew in a very public place, close to the high road, where traffic of all kinds was constantly passing. In due course her example was followed by the second hen, who established herself in a beech tree about a mile away. I had read of cock *platycereines* successfully rearing two broods at one time in an aviary, and therefore hoped for the best, but I could not help feeling nervous lest the Barnard should prove unequal to the arduous task in store for him, for I know that his wives would not begin to forage for themselves and their young, until the latter were many days old. For some time nothing was seen of either of the hens, but about eight weeks after she had begun to sit *i.e.*, at the end of May. The first re-appeared, and I imagined would assist her husband in the care of her children until they were ready to fly. She did not, however, behave as I expected, for in a very short time she went to nest again close by, it is true, so that she did not greatly tax her mate's wings or memory, but, she gave him no further assistance in feeding the brood. This habit of leaving the young of the first brood in the entire charge of the cock is probably a natural one, but in this instance it seemed most unfortunate and I feared that all three establishments would suffer by the hen's premature anxiety to lay again. However, two fine young birds eventually made their appearance, and although it is only too likely that they were not the sole occupants of the nest, and that two others, at least, perished of starvation, the result was a great deal better than might have been expected.

For some time after leaving the nest the young were fed by the cock and did not wander far. He would fly to the garden nearly a mile away, fill his crop with seed and green-food, and then return to the spot where he had last seen his family and start his clear whistling "kuk-ti, kuk-ti, kuk-ti." The young birds would hear him and answer by whistling and shaking their tails—an action which is usually a sign of anger in adults, but is, also employed to attract the attention of a passing flock of their kind which they may hear flying over them. As soon as their father came within sight the young Barnard's began to utter a different and more plaintive note and flew up to him, when he would proceed to feed them from the crop in the usual Parrakeet fashion.

In June the second hen emerged from her nest, and from her hurried manner of feeding and the quantity of seed she consumed, I felt certain that she too, had young. For many days I anxiously awaited their appearance: the hen soon vanished; having evidently started another nest, but from the first one nothing came, and at last it became only too evident that a catastrophe had occurred, the over-taxed father having probably forgotten or neglected his third establishment.

Some weeks later the first hen re-appeared and not long afterwards a fine brood of five followed her to the garden, where she assisted in feeding them with exemplary energy. Both she and her mate were now showing marked traces of the heavy family labours they had had to perform, and their worn, dull plumage contrasted strongly with the trim sleekness of their young, who had not a single feather about them which was rough or out of place. When they could no longer induce their long-suffering father to continue feeding them, the young Barnard's began to display a disgraceful lack of filial affection, driving him spitefully off the feeding tray whenever he tried to join them, while they were enjoying a meal. This treatment he submitted to with extraordinary meekness and never attempted to retaliate; but the old hen, who was growing thoroughly tired of her family and spent a good deal of time alone, never allowed them to take any liberties with her and quickly drove them off if they got in her way. One young bird, however, appeared to be the favourite child of both her parents, for she was to be seen, with one or other, long after her brothers and sisters had become quite independent.

The breeding season closed with another disappointment. I had great hopes that the second hen would rear her last brood successfully, but when she re-appeared, she was so ill and weak that we had little trouble in catching her and found her to be an absolute skeleton. No doubt her mate had been unable to provide her with sufficient food, and what he had given her she had passed on to her young—hence her emaciated condition. For some time she remained in a bad way, and hardly ate anything, but by keeping her at a very high temperature—80 to 90 degrees, I managed, in the end, to pull her round, and she is now out again, apparently as well as ever. Her second brood presumably shared the fate of the first. The moral is obvious: a double establishment is too much for a cock Parrakeet at liberty, whatever may happen in confinement, where food is close at hand. It is a pity we could not have taken the young belonging to the second hen and reared them ourselves, but this was impossible, for the first nest was practically inaccessible, and the second was never found.

Still, on the whole, I have not done badly. One of the young Barnard's of the first brood died very suddenly from inflammation of the lungs, but the others remain in the best of health, and are I hope the foundation of a flock, which may well prove "a joy for ever." Gould considers that a Barnard's plumage can only be properly admired when seen among the dark foliage of an Australian forest. But beautiful as the bird no doubt is in his natural home, he is hardly seen to less advantage in far different surroundings and under an alien sky, especially when in early spring, he is seeking a nesting site among the leafless oaks: sweeping from tree to tree in swift, undulating flight, running up and down the branches, dropping gracefully from limb to limb—now pausing with shoulders thrust forward to utter his whistling call-note and display his lovely plumage to its best advantage; now, his search for a moment ended, clinging with quivering tail outside some promising hollow which needs his mate's inspection—turquoise and emerald, primrose and violet, he flashes, a living jewel, under the bright March sun.

Breeding the Lineolated Parrakeets.

(*Bolborhynchus lineolatus*).

By Miss M. E. Baker.

I am afraid I cannot say a great deal about this event as I was away from home during the greater part of the period.

In 1912 a good attempt to reproduce their kind was made, but nothing came of it.

As early as March they gave indications of going to nest, and in late April a clutch of eggs was laid, one of which hatched out the middle of May, and it lived till August 23rd, one day previous to my return home.

The parents selected for their nest a very large husk. I cannot be sure to a day when incubation commenced, but I believe it lasted twenty-one days. Both birds shared in the duties of incubation I think, at any rate, both were continually in and out of the husk, and after the first fortnight both spent nearly the whole of their time in the husk.

This pair of birds were remarkably tame, so much so, that they did not come off when I took down the husk to look in.

I was only able to get one look at the young bird before I went away. It was a little larger than a young Budgerigar, but very strong and lively. The parent birds were very proud of it and chattered away to me while I viewed their baby.

My friend, who took care of my birds while I was away, tells me that it was soon covered with soft white down and grew very quickly, leaving the nest when about six weeks old. It was fed by the old birds for a short time only and was soon able to take care of itself.

On my return, on August 24th, I was shown the dead body, the sad tragedy of its death had only occurred the previous day, too much water in a too deep bathing vessel having brought about the catastrophe!

The body showed it to be nearly as large as its parents, and in beautiful condition and plumage, and save for being of a lighter hue, was similar to its parents.

I regret that owing to the tragedy this ends my story, but I hope they may breed again next year, and enable me to fill the gaps in above notes.

[It would be of general interest if Miss Baker would carefully describe any differences in plumage, size, etc., there may be between male and female.—Ed].

A Combined Seed-hopper and Bird Trap

By Capt. Reeve, F.Z.S.

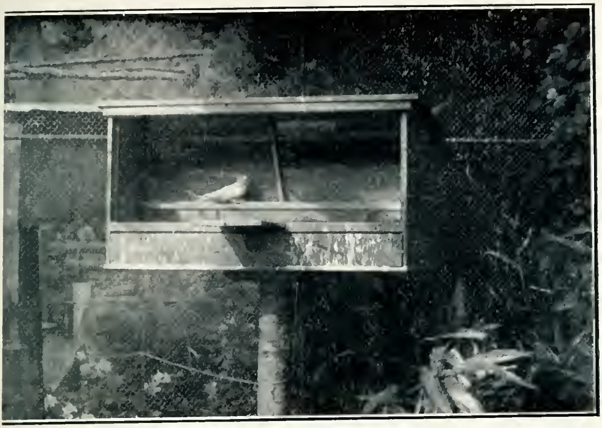
To the question of having an almost ever-ready trap in the aviary, to catch any birds as required, I have given much attention and consideration.

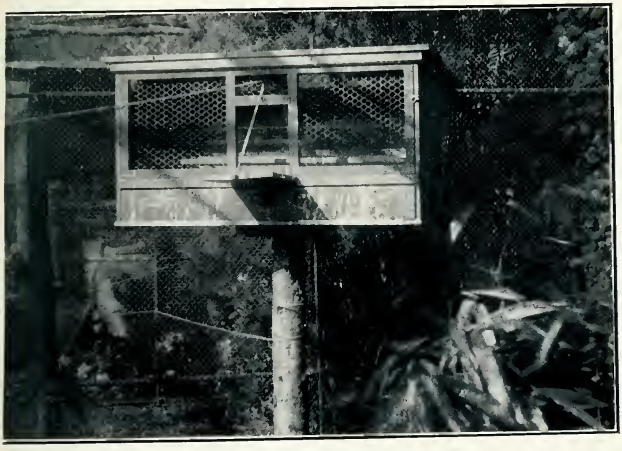
The one figured on the plate has been evolved as the result of several years' experience and testing, which with many alterations, etc., is now, I opine, as perfect as a trap of this type well can be.

The top photo of our plate shows the feeder in ordinary use as a feeder only.

The lower photo figures it, with the front frame fixed and door set, ready to catch up any required bird.

The reason of the wire front being detachable is, that when not in use as a trap, it avoids birds being penned up and attacked by larger ones, or bullies!





Combined Feeding Box and Bird Trap.
Upper Photo—In use as Seed Hopper only.
Lower Photo—Set as Trap.

A careful study of the photos will show that it consists of a box with open front, except for the drawer at bottom, which catches up the seed husks; at the back are two compartments with glass fronts—one for millet, the other for canary seed: the seed falls down into a trough (with a perforated zinc bottom to let dust through) from which the birds feed; a Canary is seen feeding in the photo! The seed compartments are filled when necessary by taking off the top of the box: they only require filling perhaps once a month, according to the number of birds: whenever empty and before re-filling it should be seen that the trough is clean and free from dust and husks.

A loose board rests on the top of the drawer beneath the perch, so as to catch any scattered seed, which may be picked up before mingling with the husks, but the use of this board is optional; but the board would probably be useful for birds larger than Finches (*e.g.* Doves), to stand upon while feeding. The top of box slopes off from front to back so as to carry off wet. An iron pin is fitted into a block in centre of bottom of box, the other end of this pin must be let into the top of a larch or other post (*see photos*), just tight enough to remain in any position it is turned to: by this means the back of the box can be turned towards the wind and driving rain.

When it is required to catch up any bird, the wire frame, as shown, in bottom photo of plate, is fixed (on the previous day if possible): the platform, which is seen in both photos, also acts as a door and is hinged; it is upheld by a wooden support, which also acts as handle to drawer! It is well also to attach the string, by which the door is closed, on the previous day for the birds to get used to it—this string should be carried through wire netting of aviary to about three yards off. I usually pull up the door and close the feeding-box before attempting "a catch," this makes the birds hungry and quite ready to go and feed as soon as the trap is opened and makes the capture a simple matter indeed—usually a bird can be captured within the half hour or less, and with no scare to the other birds in the aviary. When the wanted bird has entered the trap the string must be pulled *instantaneously*, care being taken that no bird is on the platform or in the gangway at the moment of pulling! I have never had a mishap yet with it. The door allows both hands to be inserted together—right hand to the left and left hand to the right—this effectually blocks up the doorway, and gives a double chance of catching.

The dimensions of the box are: In front 2 feet 3 inches x 1 foot 2 inches, and it is 13 inches from front to back; mine are painted dark green.

The above may be obtained from Mr. R. Ellis (who made mine), wood-carver, and cabinet-maker, Leadenham, Lincoln, Price 20s. each, but if not less than six are taken, 15s. each.

The above is my own invention after two or three years' trial and experiment, and I have found it a great time saver and the birds are caught up without a general disturbance of the aviary.

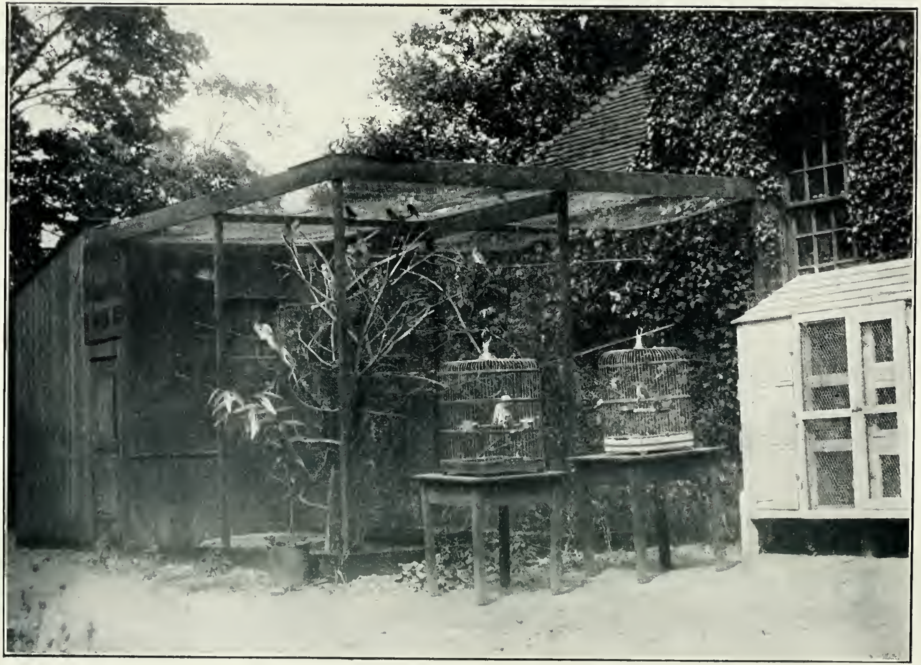
I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put concerning the above—three are in operation in my own aviaries, and one or two others elsewhere, and are greatly appreciated. I consider it admirable for seed-eaters; and, the same type suitably fitted should answer equally well for Soft-bills. It can also be made to hang on a wall.

Mr. Raynor's Aviary at Hazeleigh Rectory.

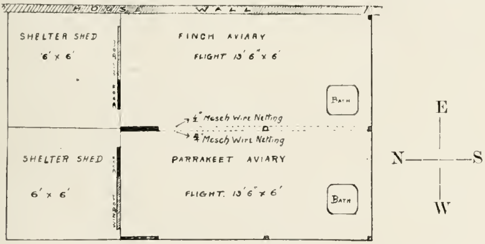
By the Rev. G. H. Raynor.

I was not until the early part of the present year (1913) that I found myself in a position to carry out my long-cherished scheme of erecting an out-of-door aviary, and, being nothing of a carpenter and less of an architect, I determined to avail myself of the valuable help of him to whom the Foreign Bird Club very largely owes its present great prosperity—our able Editor, Mr. Wesley T. Page. It has certainly cost me quite as much as I intended to lay out, but I freely confess that the pleasure I have derived from it is altogether commensurate. I am a very busy person, and the little rest I can afford to take during the daylight, I now spend for the most part (in an arm-chair in front of the aviary) in watching the habits and the gambols of the delightful birds, of which I am the proud possessor.

The accompanying photograph will, I think, give



a good idea of the structure, which is divided into two flights, each 13 feet 5 inches long x 6' feet. The height throughout is 8 feet. The two shelters are each 6 feet x 6 feet. The part of the aviary adjoining the brick-wall (which faces west) is occupied by some three dozen foreign Finches, and a pair of common Redstarts, whilst Parrakeets disport themselves in the other flight, the shelters, of course, being separate. Fortunately, there was already a plum-tree covering the northern end of the wall, whilst some ivy on the southern extremity affords shelter and nesting accommodation to the tiny inhabitants. I have also planted on the side of the flight nearest the wall a broad-leaved Japanese Euonymus, and two laurels, one Portugal and the other oval-leaved. The wire-netting all round the aviary is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh, as is also the piece forming the central dividing line of the Finches' flight, but that of the Parrakeets' flight is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. I did not do anything to the floor, as it happened to be gravelled previously. At the other end of each flight is a concrete bath, with plug to let the water out. These are cleaned out with a sponge, and filled with fresh water, every morning. Inside the shelters, which face south and are very warm and comfortable, are natural branches of trees and an assortment of receptacles for nesting purposes, as well as swinging-trays to contain the various seeds and foods, although I also put saucers of seeds about the flights, to enable me to watch the birds feeding. A plentiful supply of green food, such as sods of seeding grass, chickweed in flower, and seed-heads of knap-weed, sow-thistle, and calendula, with green canary seed in the husk, and sprays of Indian millet complete the ample menu. The floors of the



GROUND PLAN—REV. G.H RAYNOR'S AVIARY.

shelters and of the flights (where they seem so to require) I sprinkle with the rough red sand which I always have in stock for the bottoms of my Parrot-cages, eight of which I keep in my study. Two of these appear in the photograph outside the aviary. The one nearest the wall contains a pair of Meyer's Parrots (*Poeocephalus meyeri*), which have lately been presented to me by a magnanimous lady residing in the New Forest, into whose possession they came some two years since, as a gift from Capt. Wilson, who brought them home himself from the Transvaal. They are quite young birds, judging from the brightness of their eyes, and are in beautiful plumage, although each has a clipped wing, which will prevent them appearing on the show-bench for the present: Koko and Kosher, as they are called, are delightful little birds, with very graceful and winning ways, but the latter is, I regret to say, a hen-pecked husband. The female is more strongly and stoutly built, with broader head and beak, but having smaller and less vivid patches of yellow on head and shoulder than her spouse. Each of them is reputed to be capable of saying "Koko" and "Emily," but neither has said either up till now In the other cage lives the very charming Grey Parrot (*Psittacus crithacus*) which I bought at the last Palace Show from my fellow-member Mr. Schlüter, and which Mr. Allen Silver owned before him. He is a male, some six years old, and is a very friendly and lively bird, and an accomplished whistler: but his vocabulary is not very large, "Doris," which he says most frequently, was, no doubt, the name of a member of the family in which he lived: but he also pronounces it Dorris and Dorry—the latter generally with a nasal twang. Among other things he can say are "Dorry no Polly," "Hulloa, Poll!" "Hulloa, Poll, Oh!" "Hulloa, young Poll," "What do you want?" and "Come on," when he wants his head scratched. He also says frequently and most clearly "Hulloa, Po-vell," leading me to suppose that he once belonged to a very distinguished member of our club, and would fain recall him to the ranks of aviculturists, who so deeply deplore the absence from our English shows of the many avian jewels which we once admired. The other day "Bobby" said most distinctly, in a very minor key, "What are you making that row for?" evidently in allusion to the noises in which he himself had just previously been indulging! He has learnt to say "Hulloa, Koko" from hearing me thus address my female Meyer's, but I have many hundred times repeated to him "Bobby's a pretty boy," without eliciting any response whatever. He generally greets my enunciation of this sentence with a low whistle, twice repeated, evidently with the idea of impressing on me that he is "not taking any to-day." But, returning to the subject of my aviary, I will give a list of all its inmates. In the part devoted to Parrakeets are nine green Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), six being young birds bred here, two pairs of Cockatiels (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*) which have not so far reproduced their kind, and a very fine and brilliant pair of Mealy Rosellas (*Platycercus pallidiceps*), the hen of which has thrice laid three eggs, but of these one only, of the last batch, proved fertile, the resulting youngster being assiduously fed until it died. I extract the following from my diary: "10 July 1913. Heard sounds of Young Parrakeets (Mealy Rosellas) in large barrel in shelter. "11th July, 1913, sounds louder. Cock goes to barrel to feed hen. Cock is very keen on green-food, especially seed-heads of Calendula." "18th July, 1913, hen Mealy off nest a good deal." "19th July, 1913, hen off altogether now, so I looked in barrel, and found one young one, plump, but dead and cold. Feathers on wings were just showing blue." As the parents had access to every likely food (including "Cecto," which they wouldn't touch), I can only suppose that the fatality was due to the comparatively cold weather then prevailing. Since the last-mentioned date (July 19th), both parents have been moulting, which seems, with them rather a slow process, as they have not finished even now, mid-September, and of course, have not gone to nest again.

In the Finch Aviary I have two pairs each of:
Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*), and
Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
and pairs of the following:
Gouldian Finches (*Poephila mirabilis*).*
Ruficaudas (*Bathilda ruficauda*).
Masked Grassfinches (*Poephila personata*).
Green Avadavats (*Stictospiza formosa*).

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*There is only one species really, viz., *gouldiæ*, the others are merely varieties and not specifically distinct, though they have erroneously been given specific names.—Ed.

Striated Finches (*Uroloncha striata*).
Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*).
Spice Finches (*Munia punctulata*).
Black-headed Mannikins (*Munia atricapilla*).
Bronze Mannikins (*Spermestes cucullata*).
Indian Silverbills (*Aidemosyne malabarica*).
Green Singing Finches (*Serinus icterus*).
Grey Singing Finches (*Serinus leucopygius*).
Ribbon Finches (*Amadina fasciata*).
Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*).
Redstarts (*Ruticilla phoenicurus*).
and also a hen
Paradise Whydah (*Steganura paradisea*).

A great many nests have been built by various species, but, so far as I know, only two have reared young successfully, viz.: Ribbon Finches, and Zebra Finches. However, as this is my first season, and most of the species were unknown to me before, I have laid myself out rather to study and observe the birds than to induce them to breed, which no doubt they would do more freely, were they not somewhat overcrowded. Also, I hope for greater success when I have eliminated the Ribbon Finches—a pair of old birds and their two young which I have often seen interfering with the nests This was the fault too, of a very fine Cock Madagascar Weaver (*Foudia madagascariensis*) who, besides being a nest-wrecker, chased all the little birds about till their life was not worth living. I have now transferred him to the Parrakeets' Aviary, where his behaviour is altogether exemplary.

If I were asked to pick out the most charming of the smaller birds, I should, I think, put the Gouldian Finches first. They are very tame and even confidential, and the cock, being of the red-headed variety, is the cynosure of all my visitors' eyes, and is by no means unworthy of his specific name *mirabilis*. Next to them I feel inclined to place the the Redstarts, for though they are still rather shy (having been caught as adults in the spring), it is most interesting to watch them dash down for the mealworms that I throw, the Cutthroats and Zebra Finches coming off quite second best. Also the zone of the bluish-green colour beneath the black bib of the cock Redstart glistens in the sunshine like a living gem. Next in favour come the Ruficaudas and the Green Avadavats, whose delicate colours and most graceful movements I never tire of watching.

But what need of further words on so fascinating a subject as an out-door aviary? The true lover of birds will learn more of his favourites by thus watching them in their almost natural environment, than by endless reading of books or by keeping specimens confined in cages in a stuffy atmosphere indoors. The inmates of a spacious aviary seem to me to appreciate the *joie de vivre* almost, if not quite, as keenly as their kinsmen that have never known captivity.

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Freely Imported Species.

By W. A. Bainbridge.

Prologue: In conversation with our Editor a short time ago, it was mentioned, that when I first began to keep birds, each new (to me) species was a source of worry to me—was it delicate? would it breed? was it pugnacious? how many pairs could one keep in an aviary? These and similar questions are the worry of a beginner's life, and even of a more experienced aviculturist when buying some species new to him.

We talked of many aspects: most people like to know the incubation period, age of young when they leave the nest, and, what special foods they require when feeding young, etc.

My suggestion was that various members should write articles on different species: giving as much detail as possible, and that other members should give their experiences with the same species, so as to fill any gaps there might be in the first article, or if necessary, correct any errors which may have arisen.

As it is obvious that someone must begin the series—(rather re-start—Ed.)—I am sending an article on the Firefinch, and although my knowledge of this species extends for but little over a year, I have watched it pretty thoroughly and others can, and will, I hope, add to or contradict what I have written and make it complete.—[When writing about very familiar species, we are apt to forget that, in a growing cult, the tyro is always with us, and are not as detailed as we should be—we trust many will respond to Mr. Bainbridge's suggestion and the result is sure to be mutual gain and interest.—Ed.]

The Firefinch (*Lagonosticta minima*). This small blood-red Finch, in reality one of the tiniest and most beautiful of the smaller seed-eaters, is always regarded as extremely delicate. and this is perfectly true of freshly imported specimens. Although the price is but 3s. 6d. per pair, one is apt to find an acclimatised pair rather expensive, when this has only been attained after the loss of several pairs. It is, however, possible, to save the majority of one's purchases if one only goes about it the right way; personally I have been fairly successful both with Firefinches, and Cordon Bleus, but only since I adopted the following method of procedure, which, although not infallible, leaves the chances very much in favour of the buyer.

CHOOSING THE BIRDS: The method I adopt is as follows: I go to the dealer's shop and ask for a pair of Firefinches, an examination of the various cages shows say a dozen in one cage, more in another, etc., most of them inclined to be puffy. The best are caught, their feet, eyes, and breast bone examined and any which are thin are at once discarded, those that pass this test are then put into travelling cages, one pair in a cage, until we have several cages, each containing a pair of birds; one must remember, however, that the absence of a few feathers is of very little consequence as compared with plumpness and clean feet. These cages are now put on a shelf where the birds will not be disturbed every few moments, and are left there for, say, ten minutes. by which time they will have recovered from the shock of being caught. On again examining them some are seen to be puffy, others quite tight in plumage, and bright of eye. The puffy ones are removed, and others take their place—ultimately we have a few cages of nice perky looking Firefinches. If you require three pairs, buy four, so as to allow for possible deaths in acclimatisation, as it is most annoying to have to start this process over again when a nice spell of fine weather is on us. Others may do as I do, buy the lot and then sell off any surplus.

NURSING THE NEW ARRIVALS: Having chosen your birds, put them in a travelling cage with seed and water, wrap them up and get them home as quickly as possible. On arrival, not before, the paper comes off and our purchases having had their nails cut, are put into a cage, not a very large one, but large enough for a small fly from one perch to another. A box lined with hay is put in for sleeping quarters, seed and water are provided, but of the latter, only a little is given, not sufficient for them to bathe in and this little made nasty by the aid of a mild purgative. Sand is given with great moderation, as also is cuttlebone, and whenever possible a supply of live ants' "eggs" and green fly. Next morning a bath is given them, but, the water is warmed and given early, they then have ample time to get dry, before evening comes round. Their quarters should be warm, yet without draught or stuffiness.

Keep them in this cage for about ten days, and, then allow them a larger one, still however giving them a box lined with hay. After ten to fourteen days in this they should be ready for the garden aviary, providing the weather is good, but, in any case, they should not go out till they are in fairly good feather, and, by their bright and lively demeanour show themselves to be apparently pretty fit. When turned out they should be kept under observation for the first twenty-four hours or so, to see that they are going on all right. So much for the purchasng and making them fit for their chance of life in the aviary.

Their Aviary Life: In addition to a roomy-flight, their aviary will, of course, have a shelter shed to which they can retire at night. For two or three days before finally letting them loose I put their cage in the shelter-shed; the advantage of this is two-fold: First it serves to accustom them to the temperature, which is usually lower than that of their nursing quarters, and secondly it gives them a chance of knowing their way about when once they are let out.

One fine morning, as I came out of the shed, I open the door of their cage and retire quickly and quietly, with the result that they make their exit from the cage without hurry or scare and find themselves in the shed; the advantage of this is that when they leave the cage they know where they are, and when later they leave the shed, they have no difficulty in finding their way back, and, if in addition a dish of seed is placed where they can see it when they come out, they will remember it and come back to it later.

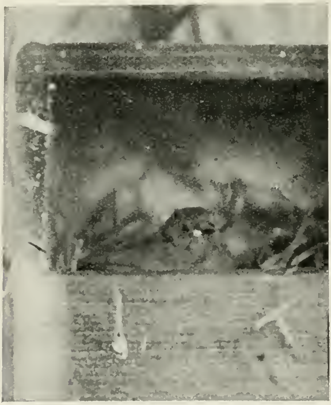
I always do this with every bird I have when first placing it in the aviary, except in the case of odd birds put in to make up pairs, for in this case the odd bird invariably finds its mate and later will be shown where food is to be found, in fact conducted to it. However, all rules have their exceptions, and the exception here is the Bunting-tribe, who appear to take little notice of their mates.

At present I have four pairs of adult Firefinches and two young at least, and very nice they look too, when disporting amid the living greenery of their natural flight.

There are three of these jolly little chaps, each with his modest little wife in one aviary. At first I tried to breed them in a cage, a nest was soon built and many eggs laid, only to be thrown out of the nest. After three or four weeks of this, I for one got tired of it, and one morning I opened the cage door, out they came and without delay started to build a nest once more; this time a cigar box with a hole near the top was chosen as the home and nursery for their brood.

Into this they carried an accumulation of rubbish, hay, feathers, etc., till it was almost full; eggs were laid and incubated steadily for some days, when, believing them to be absent, I lifted down the nest, out came the cock—they promptly deserted!

All three pairs followed this by several unsuccessful attempts, but one day, on entering the aviary, two weird little objects met my eye: what on earth were they? Father Firefinch, with much excitement, promptly settled the question by feeding his progeny, and thus two more young Firefinches were, for good or evil, launched into the world. This was on July 10th, and now (September 18th)


W. E, Teschemaker, photo.
YOUNG FIREFINCH IN NEST.
An episode of Mr. Teschemaker's Aviary in 1906

the young cock is fast assuming the rich hues of the adult. In nesting plumage they resemble the hen, with black beaks and some red on the rump.

About this time more young were heard in another nest, but I had to leave home and do not know their fate.

The food provided consisted of the usual seeds, live and preserved ants' "eggs" and mealworms, plus such seeds and insects as could be picked up in their natural enclosure, but, I am not able to say on what the young were fed.

GENERAL REMARKS: Firefinches, when once acclimatised, are delightful, till then a trial and worry to everyone, but when once in good health I have not found that they object to cold; last winter, however, I kept them in a room that was slightly warmed. This year one pair is going to stay out and I have no doubt but that they will survive.

So much for our tiny friend; long may he prosper and reproduce his kind; long may he live to delight us with his cheery confiding ways and fiery garment, as he flits here and there amidst the greenery of his garden home.

Editorial.

FOSTER PARENTS: This heading is perhaps scarcely correct, as the, so called, foster parents only rendered partial assistance in the up-bringing of the young birds. Miss M. E. Baker writes: "In my aviary I have had a young Red-crested "Cardinal, fed by a Blue Grosbeak (♂); the parent Cardinals "did not object in the least. Is this not rather unusual?".

Such instances are scarcely uncommon, at the same time they are not every-day occurrences. We will quote another instance: In Mr. W. T. Page's aviary, it was noticed that while the Grey-winged Ouzels were incubating in a small barrel, a hen Black Tanager was causing them a great deal of annoyance, but she was very insistent, for, in spite of blows, she still intruded, and the eggs were looked upon as spoiled, but, in spite of all interference two chicks were duly hatched out (these are now doing well and nearly in adult plumage), the interest of the Black Tanager continued and while size told, and she was compelled to clear off whenever the Ouzels went up with their bills full of insects, nevertheless to an extent she triumphed, for as soon as the parent birds emerged she went to the barrel with two or three insects in her beak, which she had been patiently reserving for her assumed charges; this continued all the time the young were in the nest, both soft-food and insects were carried to the young, and after the young left the nest, she followed them about and mothered them generally, taking to them every mealworm or other insect she could get hold of. The two young would undoubtedly have been reared without the Tanager's assistance, for the parent Ouzels have brought up young annually for the past three seasons, being themselves the off-spring of the original pair which first bred in 1909.

BREEDING RESULTS: From a letter in "Cage Birds" we glean that our member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has successfully reared young of: Citril Finches, Scaly-fronted Finches, White and Yellow Wagtails, neither of which we think have previously been reared in captivity. Good attempts were made by Long-tailed and Bearded Tits, Himalayan Linnets, and Purple-browed Rosefinches. We trust Mr. Teschemaker will send some details of these successes.

HECK'S LONG-TAILED GRASS-FINCH (*Poephila hecki*). Our member Mr. Hoffman, has reared one young bird of this species; it is distinguished from *P. acuticauda* by its coral-red beak, so far as we know there is no record of young of this species having been previously bred in this country. If no notice of any previous success comes to hand, the club medal will be awarded Mr. Hoffman, in due course. A detailed account will appear later. If any reader knows of any previous success with this species, it is requested that details be sent to the Club Secretary.

GRAND ECLECTUS PARROTS (*Eclectus roratus*): Miss Drummond has met with success again this season with this species one young bird, a female, being almost ready to leave the log; it was hatched out on, or about, July 14th. We hope Miss Drummond will send full details, and also tell us what she can about the progress of last year's young birds. A photo and description of the nest log would be of interest.*

NESTING NOTES: The season generally has been disappointing, but various members have been getting a few late nests during the past month. Mr. W. A. Bainbridge had

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*See Correspondence Section.

3 Gold-breasted Waxbills, 2 Gouldian Finches, 2 Jacarini Finches, 2 Diamond Doves, and 3 Zebra Finches all left the nest during September, and Diamond Finches, Bronze Mannikins, Silverbills, and Cuban Finches, are all feeding young. Mr. H. Bright had Bib Finches, Bronze Mannikins, Hybrid Bib Finch x Bronze Mannikin, Red-headed x Cutthroat, and Magpie Mannikins all left the nest during September, and we gather that there are young of Yellow-rumped Mannikins, Long-tail and Masked Grassfinches, and Gouldian Finches still in the nest. Mr. H. L. Sich has late broods (now on the wing), of 4 young Gouldian Finches, from R.H. (♂) and B.H. (♀); 3 young Olive Finches, 1 Firefinch; Avadavats, and Long-tailed Grassfinches have young in the nest.

Dr. J. Easton Scott, after rearing nothing has 10 young Gouldian Finches, 4 young Cuban Finches, and, Hybrid Sharp-tailed Finch x Silverbill as September results.

Mr. W. Shore Baily has had 5 young Gouldians recently leave the nest; Diamond and Bronze-wing Doves have young in the nest, and he has a brood of Blue-winged (*Psittacula passerina*) x Guiana (*Agapornis guianensis*) Lovebird hybrids about a week old. We are rather surprised that the Guiana Lovebird has not been bred 'ere this, of course there are few true pairs in the country, as Mrs. K. Leslie Miller's pair, now in their fifth year of cage-life, have laid quite a number of creamy white eggs, four of which Mrs. Miller has kindly sent us for examination, these average .65 x .55in. Under the conditions of aviary-life, this pair would undoubtedly have reared young.

THE OLIVE FINCH (*Phonipara lepida*): The accompanying photo of a nest of this species, is used as figuring a nest site, showing by comparison with others which have appeared, the variability both of height from ground and character of cover chosen, illustrating in some measure the adaptability of species to their environment, and their more or less ready acceptance of the best cover available in a given aviary; this trait is not in direct opposition to their behaviour in a state of nature. The site of the nest figured is a large seeding dock plant with five stout stems, and, the nest is secured to all of them, and several severe gales of wind have failed to disturb in the least, and, it is in almost as good a state of preservation now (October 3rd) as when the young emerged in July, save that it is more exposed owing to the fading away of the dock leaves. The nest was built in the Editor's aviary. It is so compactly woven that it will probably survive the winter if the dock stems are left undisturbed.

Photo by E. O. Page.

NEST OF OLIVE FINCH.

ERRATA: Page 296, line 9, for "*Motacilla raii,*" read "*Motacilla lugubris.*"

From All Sources

MIGRATORY BIRDS THAT PREY ON THE FRUIT.

Just at this season, when the famous fig gardens of Tarring, near Worthing, begin to yield their harvest, that tiny little bird known as the

"Beccafico," or "fig-eater," makes its appearance in the orchards. The bird, as its name implies, is attracted by the ripening fruit, and its presence is naturally a source of great anxiety to the fig-growers. Indeed, what with the birds and the wasps, it is necessary to protect the fruit with muslin bags directly it begins to soften, and it may be said that the Beccafico is not the only bird that has a weakness for green figs.

According to tradition, these little fig-eating Beccaficos come from Italy, following the ripening fig crop, as it were, across the Continent until at last they arrive at the most northerly of the fig-gardens of Europe, which are those in the South of England. The matter-of-fact ornithologist declares, however, that the Beccafico is just an ordinary British bird—a summer migrant which comes here every spring just as regularly as the Cuckoo or the Nightingale. The Beccafico, in fact, is none other than the Garden Warbler, which is well known as a fruit-eater, and resorts at the season to the fig-gardens because there is little else in the way of soft fruit that can be obtained at this late date. The idea of the Beccavico following in the train of the ripening figs right across Europe makes a pretty story, but that is all. And the fig-grower does not even appreciate the picturesqueness of the time-honoured legend. In Italy, by the way, the term "beccafico" does not apply to a particular species of bird, as it does here, but to any that is to be found among the ripening figs. From the *Standard*, 30, viii,, 1913, per Rev. G. H. Raynor.

NESTING OF CHESTNUT BELLIED NUTHATCH (*Sitta castaneiventris*, Frankl).

"As but little appears to be on record regarding the distribution and habits of *Sitta castaneiventris* in the Punjab, the following note may be of some interest."

"On March 4th, I met with a pair of this species in a grove of trees—chiefly Cirus, Shisham and Kikus bordering a road near Ferozepore Cantonments As it was the first occasion on which I had met with any Nuthatches in the plains, I watched them for a time feeding. On March 27th, I was passing the same way, and heard a pretty rippling whistle, which, on investigation proved to be the call of the male Nuthatch, who was alone; I suspected the presence of a nest and accordingly watched the bird, who was suddenly joined by the female; both birds started feeding, visiting the different species of trees impartially. A storm came up and drove me home before I had located the nest; the cock bird when alone had, it is true, paid a hasty visit to the small hole in a large wart-like excrescence about 10 feet from the ground on the trunk of a large Cirus, but that might have been merely in the course of insect hunting."

"The next day I went to the spot and soon found the cock Nuthatch, who was again alone, but after watching for a time, lost him. I then took up a position opposite to the small hole he had visited on the previous day and waited. The Nuthatch soon appeared flying in my direction and I was delighted to see him go straight to the hole in the "wart" and put some thing in. This showed that the nest was in the hole and the manner of his visits seemed to indicate that he was feeding the hen bird who was incubating her eggs; as if there had been young, the visits would have been more frequent and both birds would have taken part in the work."

"Accordingly next morning, March 29th, I went to cut out the nest and found that the tiny hole on the top of the wart was really the entrance to a largish chamber. The entrance hole had been partly plastered up with mud; and the chamber was half filled with fragments of Shisham seed cases which formed a loose nest in which the female was sitting upon five half incubated and an addled egg."

"The eggs were white, speckled with dull lilac, and brick-red the markings being somewhat thicker towards the larger end. They measure 1·75 x 1·35; 1·70 x 1·30; 1·70 x 1·30; 1·35 x 1·25; 1·70 x 1·30 mm. As this was the only occasion I met with the species in the district, I preserved both birds."

"The use of fragments of seed cases of Shisham is remarkable as likely to have some connection with the English Nuthatch's habit of using pine bark in the construction of its nest: at any rate both materials would seem to have the same characteristics and presumably the same (unknown) advantages." H. WHISTLER

Indian Police, Punjab.

From the "Journal of the Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc," Vol. xxii, No. 1. Ed.

Correspondence

RE STOCK FRUIT FOODS.

Sir,—For a long time I have felt the want of a stock fruit food for my aviaries. A fruit that can be stored in quantities like seed and insectivorous food; not to take the place of fresh fruit such as apples oranges and bananas, but to supplement these and eke them out when they are scarce and dear.

I have tried soaked raisins and currants, but I sometimes suspected that the skins were tough and indigestible. I have recently tried passing unsoaked currants and raisins together with fine biscuit meal through a mincer. The biscuit makes the finely minced fruit break up into pellets about the size of large peas, and prevents it becoming too cloggy. After mincing the mixture is left a few hours for the biscuit to swell.

The birds eat this greedily with the exception of some Tanagers—(*Callistae*) and I give it either by itself or mixed into the insectivorous food. I think the reason the *Callistae* do not care about it is they like to champ up their food before swallowing it, and like their fruit juicy.

I give all this for what it is worth.

E. J. BROOK.

Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan,
September 11th, 1913.

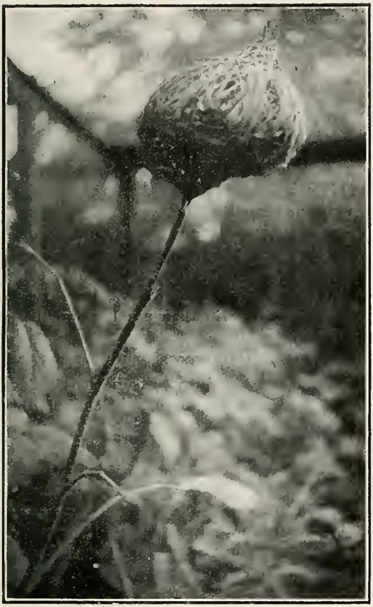
FERTILITY OF HYBRID QUAIL.

Sir.—I have a troop of young Quail from the hybrid Squamata x Californian Quail (*Callipepla squamata* x *Lophortyx californica*). I thought this would probably be of general interest, as it proves the fertility of this cross. W. SHORE BAILY,

September 3rd, 1913,

[It would be of general interest, if later, when they come into adult plumage, Mr. Shore Baily would describe the nestling and adult plumages of both the original hybrids and their progeny. Ed.]

NESTING OF SHORT WINGED WEAVER (*Hyphantornis brachyptera*).



Sir,—I am enclosing a photo of a Short-winged Weaver's nest, which, I think, may be of interest. As will be seen in the photo, the bird stripped the leaves off a tall raspberry cane and wove the nest on the extreme tip.

The nest was built by the male, but, to my regret, he has not succeeded in inducing the hen to lay; I am hoping that another season he may do so.

W. SHORE BAILY.

Boyer's House,
Westbury,
Wilts.,
Sept. 3rd, 1913.

NESTING RESULTS FOR SEASON 1913.

Sir,—In response to your request I send the following:—

One Blue Mountain (*Trichoglossus novae hollandiae*) x Chattering Lory (*Lorius garrulus*).

One Grand Eclectus (*Eclectus roratus*)—only the second time reared in captivity I believe.

Three Hen Black-Cheeks sitting week after week, month after month indeed. *No results up to now!*

Some young Cutthroats, which really don't count for anything.

Cockatiels: Several nests destroyed by White-eared Conure (*Pyrrhura leucotis*).

St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings. (Mrs.) E. H. HARTLEY.
October 2nd, 1913.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that Members from all round the coast will note the movements of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—**on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend**—

Sept. 12—Our summer visitors are now gradually thinning; the Warblers are but seldom seen in the garden. Wheatears (*Saxicola oenanthe*) are still fairly numerous, and Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla lugubris*) are plentiful. Small parties of hen Chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) arrived to-day, and another party on the 17th.

Sept. 25—A large flock of Cock Chaffinches arrived, the sexes do not appear to travel together.

Sept. 26—Waders are now very numerous. I saw the first flock of Knots (*Tringa canutus*) to-day. Herring Gulls (*Larius argentatus*) are very plentiful, but the Black-backed (*L. marinus*) are very scarce so far and those with us are immature birds.

Sept. 29—I have not noticed any movement of Ducks, but saw four Swans this morning travelling, with their usual, slow, laborious movement, in a Southerly direction.

R. S., Cleethorpes, 29-9-13.

Sept. 30—While the cheerful "*spink, spink*" of the Chaffinch is ever with us, still the birds are not numerous in the garden during the summer months, the family party, parents and young—these are a garden family, young reared here, but on the 30th there was quite an influx of cocks, and they are still here, often a dozen or more foraging on the lawn together. With the rearing of the last brood connubial bliss is at an end, that is as soon as the young are able to look after themselves, for the sexes separate, and are no more seen together till mating time comes round again. Have not seen a Willow Warbler or a Chiff-chaff since the 25th.

W. T. P., Mitcham, 30-9-13.

Sept. 23-30 This note is compiled from a cutting from the *Standard*, 27, ix., 13, kindly sent by the Rev G. H. Raynor. *Moorhens Nest and Breed in a London Street*: In Shepherd's Bush, at the junction of Askew and Goldhawk Roads, there is a small piece of fenced water (it used to be open, and was then known Starch Green Pond), it has an islet in the middle which is overgrown with ivy, and contains a dozen small bushes. Here, amid the roar of electric trams, combined with ordinary traffic, with a large public house and a cinema theatre only the road's width from them, a pair of Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) have for the past two years at least nested twice in each season. The birds are very tame and familiar and have subsisted on the natural food their fenced garden and ornamental water provides, and bread, etc., thrown to them by an interested public. Their life history has here run its course for all who cared to cull and learn, for they have quite lost their natural shyness and timidity. During the last week in September the whole clan were much in evidence —the senior brood assisting their parents in feeding the downy black chicks of the second brood, and, at the same time, still not averse themselves to be fed by their parents.—I have only quoted the bare facts from the cutting as, for the fifteen or more years prior to coming to Mitcham I lived within five minutes walk of Starch Green Pond, and the above incident is of great personal interest to me, and I have written up the environment details from personal recollection not yet dim. Since the advent of the electric trams, the district is fast losing its pleasant suburban aspect—the private villas, with the pleasant front gardens and trees are fast yielding to business premises, and the noise and roar of busy, ceaseless traffic replacing comparative quietude. Yet this shy and retiring species did not then find the spot suitable ; true the enclosure in its present aspect is but some eight years old.

W.T.P., Mitcham, 3/10/'13.

Book Notices and Reviews

Owing to space limitations we have had to hold these over till next issue.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules (See Page iii of Cover.)

In consequence of being out of town during August and the early part of September my *locum tenens* did not forward the reports for those months to the Editor. I regret if any inconvenience has been caused by the delay.

Cuba Finch. (Capt. J. S. Reeve, Lincoln). Cause of death, acute pneumonia.

Zebra Finch (♀). (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, hæmorrhage on the brain.

Cuban Finch. (Mrs. C. A. Longdon, Guildford), The cause of death was enteritis.

Silverbill. (Henry Meakin, Luton). The bird was a male and more than a year old. The cause of death was enteritis.

Masked Grassfinch (♂). (Lieut. F. M. Littledale). Cause of death, apoplexy, Many species of birds often peck and even eat the soft parts, especially the brain, of dead birds.

Violet Tanager (♀). (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Parrot Finch. (H. A. Swayne, Dublin). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Hartz Mountain Canary (♂). (Miss Muriel Maxwell Jackson, Harrogate). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Pink-browed Rosefinch (♂). (W. A. Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey). Cause of death, enteritis.

(Species ?). (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Tadcaster). Cause of death, rupture of a softened liver followed by internal hæmorrhage.

Young Rosella (♂). (W. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts.) Cause of death, enteritis.

Cordon Bleu (♀). (Capt. J. S. Reeve, Lincoln). Cause of death, enteritis.

Gouldian Finch (♀). (Mrs. A. Storey, Summerhill, Cheshire). Cause of death, fatty degeneration of liver with consequent hæmorrhage.

Lavender Finch. (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, enteritis.

Long-tailed Grassfinch (♂). (Mrs. A. Storey, Summerhill, Cheshire). Cause of death, fatty degeneration of liver.

Brown's Parrakeet (♂). (J. L. Grossmith, Bickley, Kent) Cause of death, enteritis.

Golden-breasted Waxbill. (Lieut. F. M. Littledale, Cowes). Cause of death, hæmorrhage on the brain, no doubt set up by convulsions.

Dhayal Robin. (Capt. J. S. Reeve, Lincoln). Cause of death, enteritis.

Red-headed Gouldian (♂). (Rev. J. M. Paterson, Hollington, Sussex). Cause of death, enteritis.

Hardwick's Chloropsis (♀). (Mrs. M. O'Connell, Brockenhurst). This bird was too fat and no doubt the cause of death was syncope.

Bengalese and another bird. (H. A Swayne, Dublin). Both died from pneumonia.

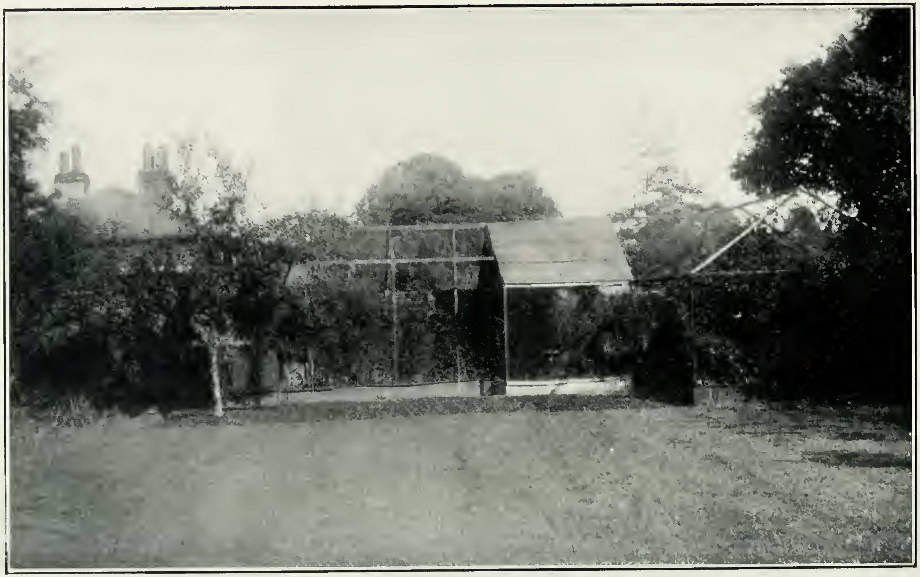
Gouldian Finch (♀). (Mrs. E. Travis, Stourbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Parrot Finch. (Lord Poltimore). Cause of death, hæmorrhage on the brain no doubt set up by convulsions.

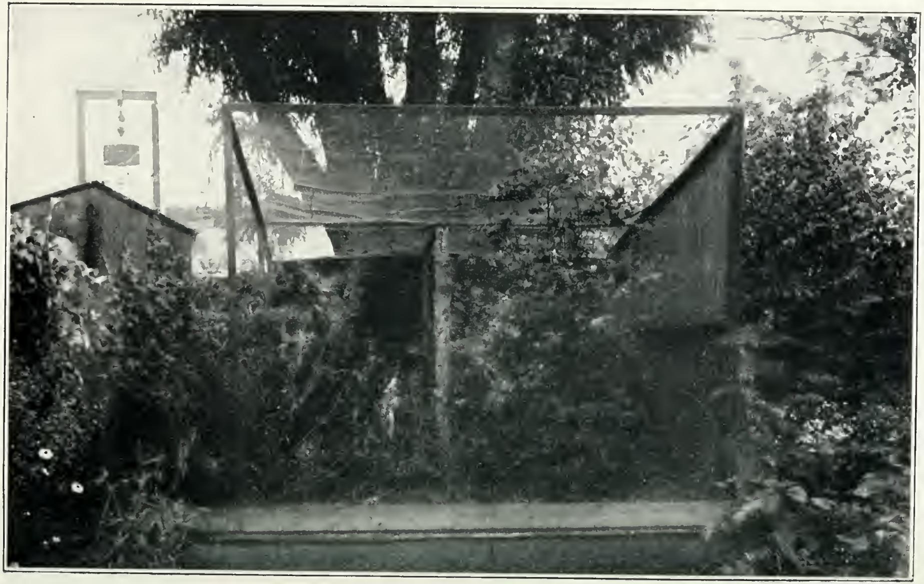
Green Amadavade. (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, cerebral apoplexy.

Answered by post—P. F. M. Galloway, Lady Kathleen Pilkington (2), La Baronne Le Clement de Taintegnier, Mrs Turner-Turner (2), H. L. Sich, P. H. Sellars, Geo. Scott Freeland, A. Ezra, L. Lovell-Keays, Miss Mundy, R. A. Dyott.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



Mr. Bainbridge's Aviary, A.



Mr. Bainbridge's Aviary, B.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Visits to Members' Aviaries.

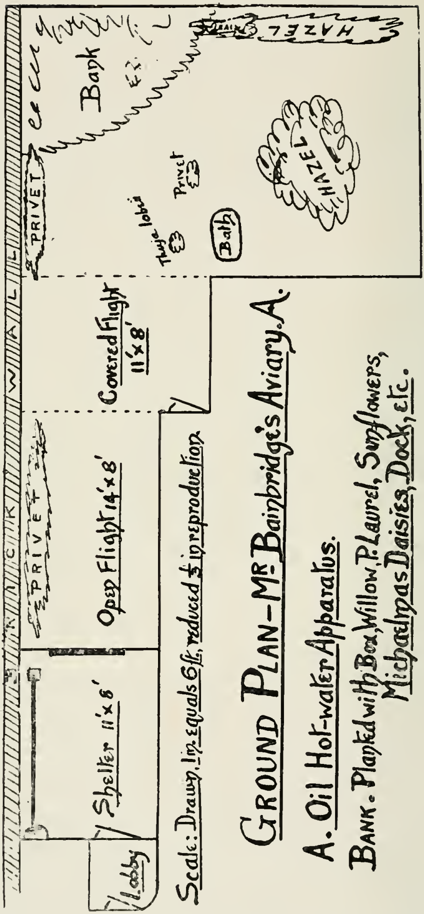
By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

(Continued from page 262).

MR. BAINBRIDGE'S AVIARIES: In mid September I availed myself of Mr. and Mrs. Bainbridge's kind invitation to spend a few days with them and view the aviaries and birds. Fortunately I was favoured with fine weather and enjoyed a most interesting and pleasant visit: as Mr. Bainbridge has said elsewhere "we talked of many aspects" of aviculture, and time passed all too quickly.

I think I am correct in stating that Mr. Bainbridge only took up aviculture last year, but he is a pronounced enthusiast and has already gathered together in his aviaries a goodly array of beautiful and uncommon species, and, as he not only takes aviculture seriously, but is painstaking also, and gives the welfare of his birds careful thought and assiduous attention whenever he is at home; quite the average amount of success is sure to come his way in the near future. He has met with a full share of the losses that are incidental to the gathering together of a good collection of birds, and at the same time has gained some valuable experience.

AVIARY A: This is the New Aviary, and is situated at the back of the tennis lawn. It is a roomy and well arranged structure consisting of shelter, open flight, covered flight and a second open flight as shown on the ground plan. The shelter is roomy and well lighted and is provided with an oil-heated hot water apparatus to give a little warmth during winter's cold days. I should say in passing that the only outlets from the oil-heated boiler are to atmosphere—no outlet into the shelter; it is lighted and all attention given from the exterior. Here some of the more fragile species are kept in roomy cages during the winter, while the more robust species use the shelter as they please and have access to the outdoor


WALL
PRIVET
Bank
HAZEL
HAZEL
Privet
Thuja lobbii
Bath
Covered Flight 11'×8'
Open Flight 14'×8'
PRIVET
Shelter 11'×8'
Lobby
Scale: Drawn 1in. equals 6ft., reduced ⅓ in reproduction.
GROUND PLAN—MR. Bainbridge's Aviary. A.
A. Oil Hot-water Apparatus.
BANK. Planted with Box, Willow, P. Laurel, Sunflowers, Michaelmas Daisies, Dock, etc.

flights at will. The ground plan gives all details, and I need only say regarding the open flights that the natural cover is abundant, and that the space between the shrubs and bushes is covered with various coarse grasses and weeds. In the covered flight, situated between the two open ones, are placed food vessels, and plenty of perching accommodation is fixed beneath the roof. The whole effect of the aviary is natural and picturesque. Here at the time of my visit many species were nesting, some young on the wing and all looking most fit and happy. The occupants were as follows :—

3 pairs Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldiae*).
2 ,, Bicheno's Finches (*Stictoptera bichenovi*).
2 ,, Ruficauda Finches (*Bathilda ruficauda*).
1 ,, Long-tailed Grassfinch (*Poephila acuticauda*).
1 ,, Masked Grassfinch (*P. personata*).
1 ,, Jacarini Finches (*Volatinia jacarini*).
2 ,, Green Avadavats (*Stictospiza formosa*).
2 ,, Red Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*).
1 ,, Green Singingfinches (*Serinus icterus*).
1 ,, Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*).
3 ,, Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*).
2 ,, Grey Waxbills (*E. cinerea*).
2 ,, Gold-breasted Waxbills (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*).
1 ,, Orange-cheeked Waxbills (*S. melpodus*).
2 ,, Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
1 ,, Lavender Finches (*Lagonosticta caerulescens*).
2 ,, Fire Finches (*L. minima*).
1 ,, Aurora Finches (*Pytelia phoenicoptera*).
1 ,, Pileated Finches (*Coryphospingus pileatus*).
1 ,, Pink-browed Rosefinches (*Propasser rhodochrous*)
1 ,, Paradise Whydahs (*Steganura paradisea*).
1 ,, Bib Finches (*Spermestes nana*).
1 ,, Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*).
1 ,, White Java Sparrows (*Munia orizivora v. alba*).
1 ,, Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*).
1 ,, Yellow-winged Sugarbirds (*Coereba cyanea*).
1 ♂ Melba Finch (*Pytelia melba*).
3 Black-chinned Yuhinas (*Yuhina nigrimentum*).
1 ♀ Brown-backed Robin (*Thamnobia cambaiensis*).
1 ♀ Hey's Partridge (*Ammoperdix heyi*).
1 ♂ Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*).
Also several odd birds of the above species.

The following young have been fully reared during the season :—

3 Firefinches.
3 Cuba Finches.
2 Gouldian Finches.
3 Zebra Finches.
2 Diamond Doves.
2 Bicheno's Finches.
3 Grey Singingfinches.
3 Gold-breasted Waxbills.

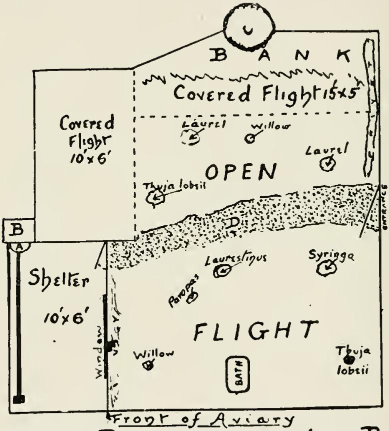
Young hatched but not reared :—

Bicheno's Finches.
Ruficauda Finches.
Grey Singingfinches.
Zebra Finches.

Had clutches of eggs but failed to hatch out :—

Bicheno's Finches.
Jacarini Finches.
Firefinches
Bronze Mannikins.
Bengalese.
Masked Grassfinches.
Cordon Bleus.
Red Avadavats.
Green Avadavats.

Aviary B : This is situated to the left of the house, with the rose garden between it and the road. The ground plan indicates the general arrangement, and it is only necessary to further add that the open flight is well grassed between the bushes, and that along the backs of shelter and covered flights, thick hedges have been formed with twigy branches, and that the general effect is both natural and spectacular. Only the top and front of open flight is wire netting.


C
B A N K
Covered Flight 15×5
Covered Flight 10'×6'
Laurel
Willow
Laurel
OPEN
Thuja lobbii
D
B
A
Shelter 10'×6'
Laurestinus
Syringa
Pampas
Window
FLIGHT
Willow
BATH
Thuja lobbii
Front of Aviary

Ground Plan-Mr Bainbridge's Aviary B
A. Oil H.W. heater. B. Small Store.
C. Large Tree. D. Gravel Path.
Scale, Drawn 1 inch equals 6ft, reduced 1/3.

It contained the following :—

1 Pair Brown-backed Robins (*Thamnobia cambaiensis*).
1 ,, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches (*Sitta castaneiventris*).

1 Pair Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*).
2 ,, Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldiae*).
1 ,, Diamond Finches (*Steganopleura guttata*).
2 ,, Silverbills (*Aidemosyne cantans*).
1 ,, Bronze Mannikins (*Spermestes cucullata*).
2 ,, Tri-colour Mannikins (*Munia malacca*).
1 ,, Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*).
1 ,, Cuba Finches (*Phonipara canora*).
1 ,, Jacarini Finches (*Volatinia jacarini*).
3 ,, Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
1 ,, Paradise Whydahs (*Steganura paradisea*).
1 ,, Grey Singingfinches (*Serinus leucopygius*).
1 ,, Grey Waxbills (*Estrilda cinerea*).
1 ,, Gold-breasted Waxbills (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*).
1 ,, Orange-cheeked Waxbills (*S. melpodus*).
1 ♂ Firefinch (*Lagonosticta minima*).
1 ♀ Pink-browed Rosefinch (*Propasser rhodochrous*).
3 Scaly-headed Finches (*Sporopipes squamifrons*).

The following young birds have been fully reared this season :—

5 Jacarini Finches.
3 Diamond Finches.
6 Silverbills.
1 Ruficauda Finch.
2 Grey Waxbills.
2 Bronze Mannikins.
3 Cutthroats.

Hatched but not reared :—

Diamond Finches (3 broods).
Jacarini Finches (2 broods).
Grey Waxbills (2 broods).
Grey Singingfinches.
Zebra Finches,
Ruficauda Finches.

Had clutches of eggs but nothing hatched out :—

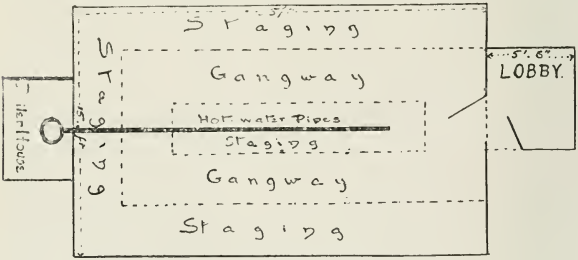
Cordon Bleus.
Cuba Finches
Diamond Dove.
Tricolour Mannikin × Bengalese.
Hey's Partridge × Californian Quail.
Zebra Finches.
Ruficauda Finches.

I was able to examine many nests and to note not only the varying position of sites chosen by the different species, but also the same as to an individual pair of birds, *e.g.*, Jacarini Finches, one pair of which have nested five or six times this season, and at the time of my visit were feeding young in a nest amid the long grass on the ground; on a former visit I saw a beautifully constructed nest in a privet bush about 2 feet from the ground. I also saw the huge heap of hay, etc., (described by Mr. Bainbridge in September issue) which formed the domicile in which the Grey Waxbills were reared, while as we sat in front of Aviary "A" there came to our ears the pleasant sound of young Gouldian Finches shouting for food. But space will not permit one to ramble on, and I must conclude with the remark that the lists of birds, given for respective aviaries, are as the birds were located at the time of my visit and that where successes, etc., do not agree with the lists it indicates that the birds had been changed about a little earlier in the year.

MRS. ANNINGSON'S AVIARIES AND BIRDS: On Saturday, October 11th, I left for Cambridge to pay a long deferred week end visit to Dr. and Mrs. Anningson, and to have the privilege once more of seeing her fine series of Parrots, Cockatoos, and Macaws. Much avicultural talk and an all-day motor drive around the environs of Cambridge brought an eventful and interesting visit to a close.

Mrs. Anningson's Aviaries and Birds have been described and the Finch aviary figured on more than one occasion in "B.N.," and I also described the palatial quarters of the Parrot-house, but on the present occasion I am happy to be able to give a description of it in Mrs. Anningson's own words, as follows:—

"MY PARROT HOUSE: The House is constructed of one-inch "tongued and grooved matching, lined with teak, with an interlining "of thick felt; the roof is of corrugated iron, lined with felt and "matching; the floor-boards are of oak. There are two large (4ft. "square) push-out windows opening out on to the back lawn. All



Ground Plan-Mrs. Anningson's Parrot House.

"the windows are on the S.E. side, and glazed with rolled glass and "fitted with venetian blinds inside, and outside with striped blinds "which assist in keeping out winter's cold and summer's heat. The "house stands upon eight brick and cement pillars, 12in. square

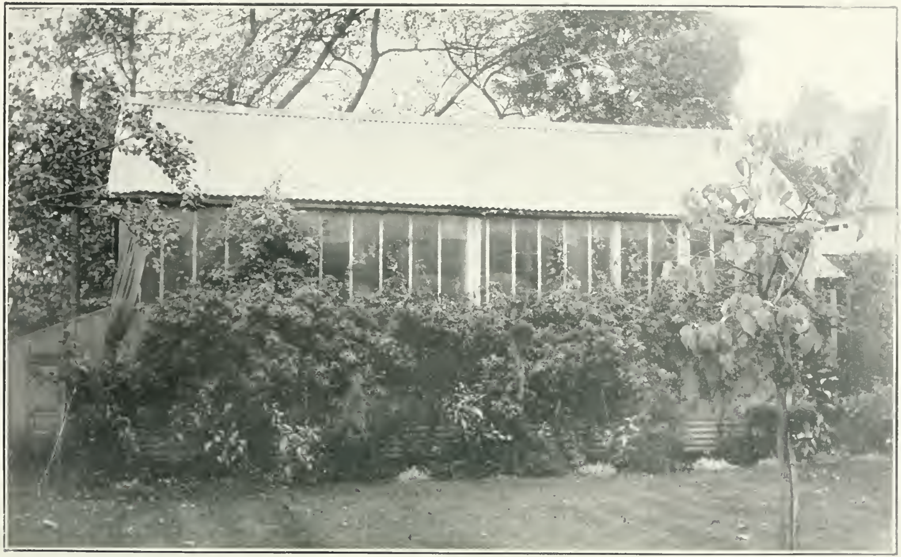


Photo by R. Bennett.

Mrs. Anningson's Parrot House.

"by 18in. high; the spaces between the pillars are fitted with corrugated iron sliding shutters as protection for the hot-water pipes. "The House is heated by means of a 'Leicester' boiler with 3in. "flow and return pipes running along the centre of the house; "the fire is made up twice daily—10 a.m. and 10 p.m., and coke is "the fuel used. The dimensions are given on ground-plan, and "it only remains to state that the height is 10ft. to plate and 15ft. "to ridge. Other details are clearly shown on the photo illustrating "these notes. A lath-work staging runs along the two sides and "one end of the house, and also another along the centre, on which "the cages are arranged. It may interest my bird friends to know "that a cat has been trained to live in the house with the birds so "as to keep down mice. The photo of the exterior of the House "was kindly taken by my friend, F. Bunnett, Esq., but we failed "to get one of the interior owing to the poor quality of the light at "this time of the year, but I hope at some future date to supply "this and also some photos of the birds. I have omitted to state "that the House is painted with asbestos paint, pale green outside "and egg-shell blue inside."—Claudine Anningson, Oct. 23, 1913.

Further comment is unnecessary, save to state that Mrs. Anningson's description barely does the structure justice, but a photo of the interior at some future date will remedy this. I cannot, however, pass on without expressing my admiration of the roomy and massive cages in which the birds are housed; incidentally I gleaned these had cost 100s. and 200s. each according to size.

I have a request from several who have seen and heard of Mrs. Anningson's unique collection that I would fully write up the respective species as well as describing the individuals; this would prove altogether too lengthy for this notice, but I propose (*D.V.*) to meet this request by an article "Mrs. Anningson's Parrots," in the early part of next vol., and here must content myself with a list and a few concluding remarks.

1 pair Severe Macaws (*Ara severa*).
1 pair Blue and Yellow Macaws (*A. ararauna*).
1 ♂ Glaucous Macaws (*Anodorhynchus glaucus*).
1 ♂ Red and Blue Macaw (*Ara macao*).
1 ♀ Banksian Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*).
1 ♂ Gauga Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galeatum*).
1 ♂ Slender-billed Cockatoo (*Licmetis nasica*).
1 pair Goffin's Cockatoos (*Cacatua goffini*).
2 ♂ Salmon-crested Cockatoos (*C. moluccensis*).
1 Lesser Lemon-crested Cockatoo (*C. sulphurea*).
1 Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*C. opthalmica*).

1 Red-vented Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*).
1 Senegal Parrot (*Poeocephalus senegalensis*).
1 Bottled Parrot.
1 Gold-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis ochrocephala*).
1 Diademed Amazon (*C. diademata*).
1 Cuban Amazon (*C. leucocephala*).
1 Cashmere Ring-necked Parrakeet (*Palæornis indoburmana*).

In other outside aviaries were: One pair each Burmese Blossom-headed Parrakeets, Brazilian Conures, Indian Ring-Parrakeets and Blue Mountain Lorikeets.

While some of the above had not yet completed the moult, all were very fit and in the best of health—the hues and beautiful bloom of their plumage fully indicated this. The *menu* consisted of such large seed mixture as hemp, oats, sunflower, paddy rice, dari, etc., also giant canary seed and millet; fruit, nuts (various), but for the larger Cockatoos and Macaws Brazil nuts are supplied all the year round, irrespective of cost. A large bowl of chips of wood—really thick natural branches, broken up—goes in daily as part of the *menu*. All the birds were very tame, though some resented the intrusion of strangers, but Mrs. Anningson and the maid who assists in tending them and supplying their wants can do almost anything with them. I can only quote one instance. The maid took the huge Glaucous Macaw out of its cage, caressed it, and held it in her arms as if it were an infant, to the great satisfaction of the Macaw, but such instances and also questions of rarity etc., I must leave to the subsequent paper.

THE FINCH AVIARY: This was already fitted with its glazed shutters and all its occupants were in excellent condition. Among them I noted the following species:

LOVEBIRDS: Peach-faced, Black-cheeked, Red-headed, and Madagascar; also Green and Yellow Budgerigars*.

FINCHES: Ribbon,* Zebra,* Spice, Ruficauda, Fire, Parson, Diamond and Bicheno's. Also Grey and Green Singingfinches.

MANNIKINS: Black-headed, Bronze, Tri-colour, White-headed, Silverbills, Grey and White Java Sparrows.

WAXBILLS: Grey,* Orange-cheeked and Gold-breasted; Common* and Avadavats.

WHYDAHS AND WEAVERS: Yellow-collared, Paradise, Red-shouldered, Pintailed and Queen Whydahs. Red-billed Weavers,* and Combasous.

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*Indicates have reared young this season.

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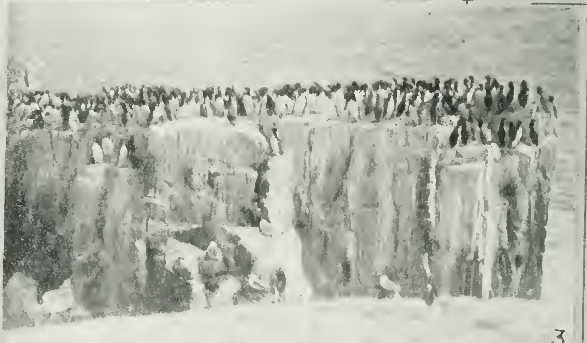
Photos by F. Dawson-Smith. August 1913



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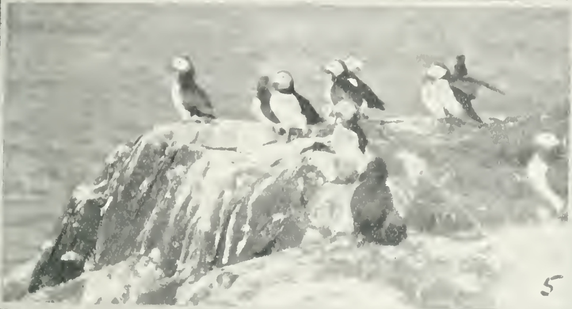
1, 2 Herring & Lesser Black-backed Gulls. 3 Guillemots.



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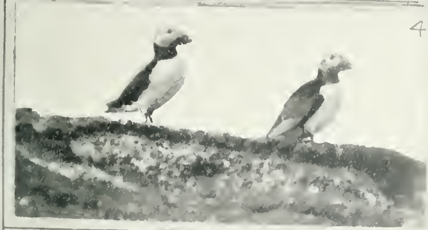

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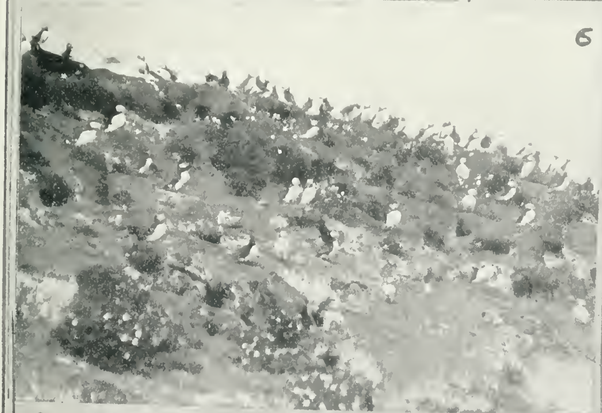
Photos by F. Dawson Smith. August 1913.



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PUFFINS AT HOME STAPLES ISLAND.

ETCETERAS: Cape Doves, Virginian and Red-crested Cardinal and Glossy Starlings.

Thickets of branches supplied abundant cover, and perching accommodation; while almost all sorts of nesting receptacles were suspended from the roof, hung upon the walls or fastened amid the branches. The *menu* consisted of canary, white and Indian Millet, millet sprays, mixed seeds, insectile mixture, milk sop, fruit, and greenfood, so that the needs of all were fully met and the demeanour and general fitness of the birds were abundant proof of the care and attention they continually received, and a sufficient reward for it. Much more might be profitably written, but space forbids.

■■

A Day on the Farnes in August.

BY F. DAWSON-SMITH.

I have always felt a great desire to visit a large bird colony, and in August this year I persuaded a friend to join me in an exploring expedition to the Farnes, off the Northumberland coast, believing this to be one of the finest resorts of sea-birds to be found in the British Isles.

Obviously the first matter to arrange was—how to get there. After prolonged discussion we decided that a motor-bike and side-car was a pleasant and convenient mode of transit. We started on our adventures on August 5th, from the South Midlands, my friend acting as chauffeur, and I packed (literally) in the side-car, which I occupied in common with all our travelling impedimenta. Naturally our personal luggage was of trifling moment, but we had to carry our tent and camping outfit, chief among which was our photographic paraphernalia. This meant careful consideration in packing, having to utilize a minimum of space with a minimum of packages. I was jammed into my seat nursing a camera, with sundry hard parcels finding my joints, and a can of petrol between my feet; and feeling that nothing short of an earthquake could dislodge me! However, these were trifles when one set forth in search of adventure. The first day's run of 210 miles was not particularly interesting, but we reached Darlington which was well on the way to our destination. The next day we passed through Durham, where we stayed a couple of hours to look at the magnificent cathedral, then on through Newcastle, where the roads were atrocious, and nearly jerked us to pieces. However, the weather kept fine, which was all-important, and without mishap we reached Bamburgh in the early afternoon. For a time we imagined we had reached the end of the journey by land, but a little later we discovered the small and rather primitive fishing village of Seahouses, where we were directed to obtain a boat to convey us to the Islands. We were greeted by numbers of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), with which the harbour was crowded. Some Terns (*Sterna fluviatilis*), also, were gracefully winging their way above us, but apart from the Gulls. From here we had our first glimpse of the Farnes, which apparently were about a mile away; but "appearances are deceptive," as we learned that, in reality, the Islands were about three or four miles distant. We employed some time in exploring the quaint old village, and watching the trawlers bringing in the herrings, and then we began our search for a boat. We had little trouble in obtaining one, and arranged to start at nine o'clock the next morning. The night was fine and mild, and we decided to pitch our tent on the sand dunes outside Seahouses. The sky being perfectly clear we burrowed in the sand, and slept outside the tent, with the mingled song of the sea-birds and the unceasing murmur of the waves lulling us to rest. We slept soundly until the early morning, when a sudden heavy shower of rain compelled us to rise, "take up our bed and walk," inside the tent, where we resumed our interrupted slumbers and slept peacefully, and awoke to find the rain had ceased and that we were blessed with a perfect ideal day, with a clear atmosphere and brilliant sunshine, the Farnes showing up in bold relief. Along the shore, close to our tent, crowds of Redshanks were running about uttering their soft whistling cries, and with the sun dancing and sparkling on the water, and the sand-dunes making a perfect and entrancing picture to the eye of an artist. With difficulty we tore ourselves from the fascination of it all, but breakfast, and the boat at Seahouses were calling imperatively. On reaching the boat we found our man and two boys ready for us; the former being a rugged, weather-beaten old fisherman, who evidently knew his work thoroughly well. The journey across the water took about forty-five minutes but it did not seem half that time, as there was so much to see and interest. Porpoises in the water, and Gulls, solitary Gannets, Cormorants and Puffins flying overhead and acting as our advance guard to the islands. Our first destination was the Staples. The sight here was amazing. Myriads of birds filled the air, rocks, and sea. I had never seen such a thing before, and felt all the keen delight that every bird-lover must feel on his first visit to a breeding colony. We scrambled up the rocks with our cameras, with crowds of shrieking Gulls, chiefly the Lesser Black-backed (*Larus fuscus*) variety, whirling all about us. Our first objective was a bank which was covered with Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) standing outside their nesting burrows. Many more were standing in a long row on the top. Very few of the burrows contained young, as it was late in the season, but we caught sight of a few in their black fluffy nest down. The old Puffins, like grave and solemn sentinels, looked very quaint, with their black and white plumage, curiously coloured, powerful beaks, and rather squat appearance. They seemed quite tame, and did not fear our approach, consequently it was an easy task to photograph them. We lingered long at this particular spot, but presently realized that time was pressing, and then turned toward the Pinnacles. These are precipitous rocks at the end of the Staples, swarming with Guillemots (*Uria troile*). Some Gulls were feeding young on jutting ledges on the steep sides. It was impossible to get on to the rocks with the birds, as we were separated from them by a precipice, but we took photographs of them from where we found foothold on the opposite side. The top of the Pinnacles was a seething mass of Guillemots, and yet we were told by one of the watchers who reside on the island during the breeding season, that there were "nothing like so many as in June." The marvel to us was how such a vast number of birds obtain food for themselves and their young. Fresh birds were continually arriving and others leaving. We could see some of the Guillemots fighting,—perhaps objecting to the squash. Across the precipice came their incessant cries, but as regards *noise*, nothing came up to the gulls! Several young Kittiwakes were nestling in the side of deep chasms, while the old birds fed them. These were, perhaps, the prettiest of the Gulls, and very interesting to watch. The other Gulls—Herring, and Lesser Black-backed out-numbered the Kittiwakes (*Larus tridactylus*)—Their young, in all stages of growth, were sporting about at our feet. They usually relied on their protective colouration and consequently did not attempt to run until they fully realized that they were seen. Their dark markings harmonized so well with the rocks that it was difficult to distinguish them in the crevices where they hid. The old gulls flew around us, shrieking and making a greater hullabaloo than all the other birds put together. They attempted to buffet us as we approached their young, but never actually did so, rising, instead, above our heads. The cry of the Gulls was similar to the barking of dogs.

Amongst the Gulls, and all over the Staples, were numbers of Puffins. At one place a large flock of them were sitting floating on the sea; others were flying backwards and forwards to the rocks. The Puffins were, perhaps, the most interesting of all the birds on the Staples. On another part of this Island was a small colony of Arctic Terns. Several young ones, in various stages of growth, were standing about, waiting to be fed. These birds, also, were coloured like the ground, and were obviously conscious of the fact, as they preferred to squat and rely upon their natural protection, instead of running when we approached. We had not half exhausted the beauties and interest of the place but time was flying, and there were still other points of interest to visit. Accordingly we clambered over the slippery seaweed and down the rocks to our boat. Our next destination was the Knoxes a flatter island than the Staples. This island is chiefly occupied by Terns—Arctic and Sandwich. There were thou-thousands of them, the former greatly in excess of the latter. It was easy to distinguish them as they flew around, the Sandwich Terns (*Sterna cantica*) being of a considerably larger size. They were not so tame as the birds on the Staples, although the young, of which there were numbers, were easy to catch and examine. I only saw one *young* Sandwich Tern, and that was nearly full grown. On picking it up to examine, it ejected a sand-eel about 1½ inches long—rather a large mouthful for a bird of that size! It would be difficult to imagine a prettier sight than these Terns on the wing. Their graceful evolutions, slender shape, forked tail, and rapid flight reminding one of swallows. On this Island were four places, close together, where Eider Ducks (*Somateria mollissima*) had nested but we were, unfortunately too late to see them, nothing being left to show they had nested there, save some of their down. While we were engaged in viewing these nests we heard the sharp scream of an Oyster Catcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and looked up to see it flying overhead. A few of these birds nest on the Islands, but all the young had flown, as had the Cormorants, which nest on another part called the Wamses.

We spent the afternoon among the Terns, watching their habits, and the old birds feeding their young. But "Time and tide wait for no man," and we had perforce, to leave the fascinating occupation.

Regretfully we clambered back, and got into our boat, which was rowed out of the small, rocky bay, and the sail hoisted. We had a final glimpse of the Puffins as we rounded the headland. A large flock were resting on the water. They took flight as we drew near, and very quaint they looked flying back to the Staples. We could only see their black backs and their two little yellowish feet stuck out behind.

We passed round the Islands, getting a close view of the lighthouse, but we did not land again as it was getting late And thus we made our way back to Seahouses, with our gaze ever riveted on the wild grandeur of the islands. And so ended our day on the Farnes; a day ever to be remembered, spent with Nature in her happiest mood. The rocky, rugged, beauty of the scenery, alive with sea-fowl, and set in a sunlit sea, had provided a vision to gladden the heart of artist or bird lover alike. It was my first experience, but it will not be my fault if it is my last—for I have registered a mental vow to visit a similar colony at the first opportunity. Then, if the Editor will allow me. I shall be pleased to tell *Bird Notes* readers of my further adventures in search of birds and bird life.

The Lammergeier in Captivity.

(*Gypaëtus barbatus, Linn*).

By H. Whistler, I.P., M.B.O.U.

It so chanced that in February, 1911, I was shooting in that portion of the Punjab Salt Range which abuts on the River Indus, and crossed over to the Kohat Hills, on the other side of the river. The primary object of pursuit was the Oorial or Punjab Wild Sheep, but I was also on the look out for anything of ornithological interest.

Hence I was interested to note that the Lammergeier was extremely common in these hills—in fact on occasion it was to be seen flying low round villages in the manner of Common Kite *Milvus govinda*—and I thought it would be a good opportunity to try for eggs.

My friend and host, the Malik of Kalabagh, kindly offered to secure a nest for me and sent out word round the hills that any nests found were to be reported. This order produced news of two eyries which (as I had by then returned to my district) were examined by the Malik's "Shikaris." One nest was found to contain eggs, but although the eggs were visible from a neighbouring crag, the nest itself was unapproachable. The second nest was in an accessible position, and a man climbed up to find it contained a young bird which was taken and sent to me.

This young bird reached me in Rawal Pindi, on March 3rd, and I determined to try and rear it—as a bird somewhat rare in the annals of aviculture!

When received, the nestling was about the size of a young Goose, clothed in dirty brownish-grey down, with young feathers breaking through the down, most notably the quills and scapulars. There was as yet no trace of the well-known blood red colour of the sclerotic membrane. He was very voracious and noisy, giving vent to a curious shrill squeak. I kept him in a large basket and fed him on butcher's meat and fresh or stale birds, but he was always "asking for more." Once, indeed, I did give the young brute a real gorge—as much as he wanted—and he became so uneasy in consequence that I tried to administer an emetic; but such things apparently make no impression on a Vulturine stomach, and the the trouble settled itself.

There is no need to enter here into the plumage assumed by the bird as it became fledged. It has already been described at length. (*Journal*, Bombay N.H.S., xxi., p. 664).

When the bird was safely fledged I attached jesses and a long leash to its feet and fastened him by a large stump in my compound: here he lived for some time in apparent content, but suffered badly from the heat which he seemed to feel very much. This I have noticed in other captive Raptorial birds kept during the hot weather in the plains.

Once when a big snake, some 4 feet long, was killed in the compound, I put it before the Lammergeier to see whether he had any use for it: he had! The snake was swallowed, head first, inch by inch, without any hesitation.

In July I was transferred from Rawal Pindi to Ferozepore and it was rather a problem how the bird was to be taken on the journey. The matter was solved by the construction of a sort of wooden bicycle crate, which went in the van.

I was much amused by the interest shown at various station in my novel baggage: amongst other incidents I heard one "knowing" man giving a couple of friends a lecture on the habits of "the Black Eagle."

At Ferozepore it so chanced that there was a vacant room in my bungalow which was set aside for the bird, which was let loose in it. This room had a smooth cement floor, so it was kept perfectly clean by a daily washing with phenol and water: the bird, of course, was fed on fresh clean food—either birds or goat entrails; so the room could be kept quite sweet.

The man who cleaned the room out suddenly became an object of the most violent hatred on the part of "Om Slopergas" (as someone christened the bird—rather a good name as expressing his clumsy way). Probably a sly dig with the broom or some similar insult was responsible for this, but whatever the cause, the result was that I had always to be present to keep the peace while the room was being washed. The bird used to become perfectly furious, his feathers stood on end, and he would try to charge squealing at the sweeper, who was very frightened of him. Yet he made no attempt to hurt me, although I used to hold him back by main force.

During the whole time that I had "Om Slopergas," it was remarkable that he would allow me to handle him most freely, picking him up and doing anything with him. Strangers, of course, were not at all keen to lay hands on him.

Like Autolycus he was a picker up of unconsidered trifles: one morning I was sitting talking to him when the great mouth opened, after sundry contortions of the gullet, and a Keating's Powder tin was solemnly laid in front of me; on another occasion I found an iron door-bolt on the floor, which had apparently come from the same source.

The accompanying photo was taken with sundry others one morning when the Vulture was brought out from his room into the sun: the sudden entrance into the warm sunlight made him open his wings to enjoy the warmth—a habit common to many large birds.

After the bird had been in my possession for 7 months he was shipped on board the "City of Athens," at Karachi, on the 9th October for transmission to Regents Park, where I thought he would be of more use than in my possession. For the sea journey his old "crate" was strengthened and covered with small mesh wire-netting.

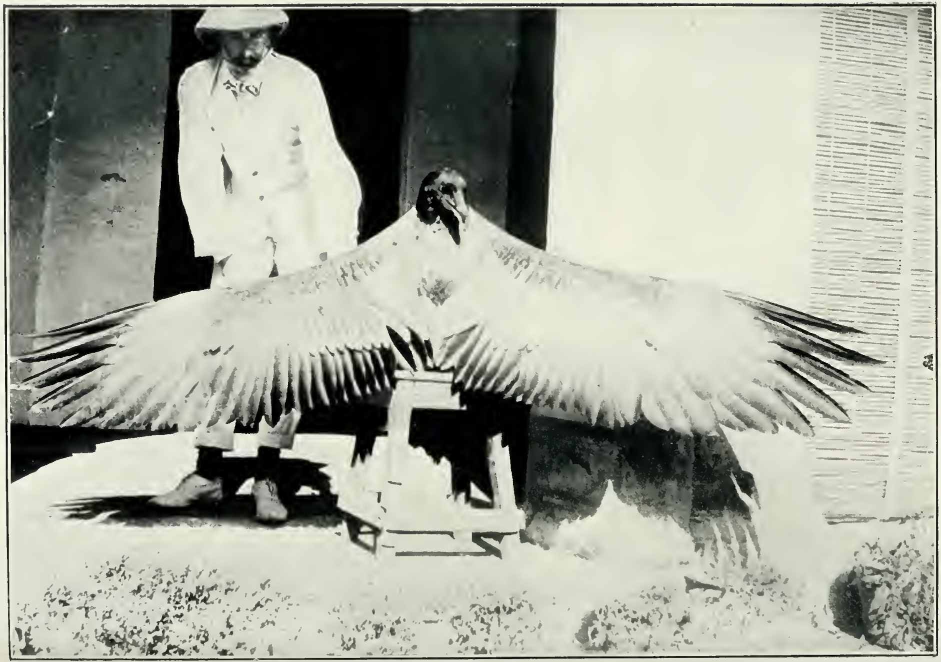
He reached the Zoological Gardens safely and last year I went and saw his new abode—one of the large Birds of Prey Aviaries, which he was then sharing with an adult specimen from Turkestan. The keeper allowed me to enter the cage and I picked up and handled the bird as of old: but it was clear that he objected and had clean forgotten me, which was sad, as we had been such good friends.

He is still there if any of our members care to look for him.

How I Started Aviculture and My First Season with Parrakeets.

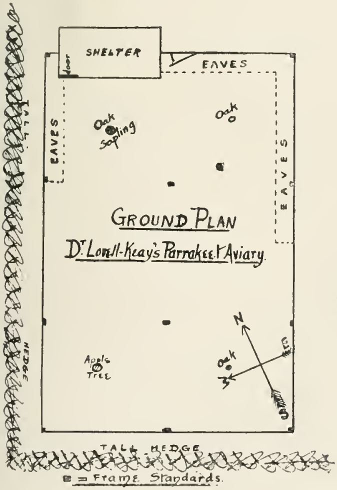
By Dr Lovell Keays.

Aviculture to me centres round the letter "P." If aviculture is a sin, the recording angel would be constantly



turning up "P" and recording all sorts of odds and ends, such as Page, Perreau, *Psittaci*, *Platycercinae*, *Ploceidae*, Parrakeets, and so on. In the early spring our genial Editor wrote and asked me if he could bring his friend Major Perreau down to see my aviaries. In those days there were but two on the place, viz.: Mr. Sich's splendid Waders' Aviary and a nondescript affair, consisting of a nice, 30 feet x 20 feet by 8 feet flight, with a small shelter, 8 feet x 4 feet x 8 feet high. In this resided a pair of wandering Peafowl. But, "this" also was the Adam of all my future aviaries. This, my first aviary, was very roughly constructed by myself and my man, and cost with subsequent embellishments, about £10. Although roughly constructed it is in reality a very fine aviary and birds do exceedingly well there.

Mr. Page and Major Perreau reviewed the land, and decided on Parrakeets or *Psittaci*. My aviary was quite rectangular, and faced nearly south. It had no furnishing and no protection from the W., N. W., or N.E., so I boarded about 10 feet of the western side up, the whole of the north side and at a subsequent date about 15 feet on the east side was boarded up too. I divided the interior part roughly into four areas; and in each I planted a young oak sapling, but, in the S.W. corner I planted a standard apple tree, which, with its antler-like branches makes the finest perching and displaying place imaginable. There is nothing in the tree line to equal it. I need hardly say that the trees were all speedily rendered *non est* as far as growth was concerned. The oak saplings were cut down from a neighbouring wood, and cost nothing.



In the far or South end I have fixed a long perch about 15 inches from the top, and projecting about 10 inches out. The birds simply delight in this and I consider this one of the features of my aviary. The netting used was $\frac{5}{8}$ inch mesh and I got Messrs. Boulton and Paul to weave one 60 yards by 8 feet in width. I thus obviated all joins in the sides, as my gardener simply wrapped the netting round the posts, beginning at one door-post and ending at the other. But 8-feet netting is not easy to handle for the roof, and I do not recommend it for that. The local carpenter made me a shelter 8ft. x 4ft. x 8ft. high at the ridge; walls felted inside and roof outside. The cost of which was 30s. I fitted the entire shelters with coco-nut husks and nesting barrels, but the smaller Parrakeets seem to much prefer the husks. I now had a roomy aviary, and to see such magnificent creatures as Parrakeets, Rosellas, and Barnard's flying from end to end is a never-to-be-forgotten sight. The Broad-tails must have room, or they cannot possibly thrive, and one loses half their charm if they only have room to flit from branch to branch. As I have said, the total cost of a really excellent aviary was well under £10, so the question of cost need deter no one from becoming an enthusiast for Parrakeets. My next task was to stock this somewhat vacant looking space, for with an absence of "cover" the aviary looks very large. Our Editor helped me, and we quickly obtained the favourite Budgerigar—two pairs of green and one yellow, and a pair of All Green Parrakeets (*Brotogerys tirica*). I quickly began to feel my feet and very soon I had Rosellas, Tovis, and Moustache Parrakeets, and, that most charming of all Parrakeets the modest gentle little Cockatiel.

I was started in aviculture. Soon my doubts and uncertainties commenced. I believed my two Rosellas were cocks. I was not sure of my All Greens. I at once set to and made up my mind I would find out and in that way began my *study* of Parrakeets, especially as regards sexing them. The result of my studies was that I was positive my Rosellas were both cocks, and hearing one day of an odd Rosella, I motored 24 miles to see it. It answered to my preconceived notion of a hen Rosella. I brought it home and as soon as I introduced it into the aviary the erstwhile friends began to quarrel and finally one cock drove off the other and took possession of the hen. Later on I paired off the other cock and again proved my theories to be correct. Since these days I have had pass through my hands for longer or shorter periods Barnard's, Many-coloured, Adelaide, Red-rumps, Blue Bonnets, and Brown's among the Broad-tails, besides other Parrakeets, most of which I still possess. I rapidly added to my series such species as Black-cheeked (*Agapornis nigrigenis*), Blue-winged (*Psittacula passerina*), Grey-headed (*Agapornis cana*), Rosy-faced (*A. roseicollis*), and Red-faced (*A. pullaria*) Lovebirds. (I am aware that the Blue-winged Lovebird is not a true Lovebird), and lately I have been very fortunate in obtaining a true pair of Guiana Lovebirds (*A. guianensis*), but have lost my Red-faced. Besides these I added Blossom-headed Parrakeets (*Palaeornis cyanocephala*), and Indian Ring-neck Parrakeets (*P. torquata*). By this time I realised my aviary was greatly overstocked, and, although every bird looked the picture of health, I knew that breeding results must suffer. But I had made up my mind to get in a stock of birds, and then weed out the undesirables, and have constructed a fresh series of aviaries. I may say that I no longer possess Many-coloured, Brown's, or Blue Bonnets, for one reason or the other, but that all the others are living together in perfect amity at the present moment. At the same time I am feeling anxious about so many Broadtails, and should they commence to breed there would probably be trouble. My losses have been practically nil, and I have lost nothing costing more than 7s. 6d. a bird. Parrakeets are, as far as my experience goes, hardy, interesting, and easy to keep and feed. The brightness of their plumage, the quickness of movement, rapidity of flight, and their almost human intelligence make them most fascinating. But the order must be room, room, room! My aviary has a carpet of beautiful grasses, and I ascribe the good health of the Parrakeets largely to this. For they are all largely ground birds, and eat quantities of grass, Besides Parrakeets I have a few odd birds in this aviary – birds in disgrace more or less, such as Pekin Robins (4), Red-crested Cardinals (2), Quail (2), and a pair of Green Singing-finches (*Serinus icterus*). The latter built, laid, and hatched out, and I think, given another week would have successfully brought off their brood, but a mischievous Tovi dashed all one's hopes to the ground, and incidentally several frail young fledglings. These Green Singing finches like many of the series were troublesome in my Finch aviary, and had to be banished. My Grey Singing-finches (*S. leucopygius*) are most amiable, and have built a most perfect cup-shaped nest in some perennial asters (Michaelmas Daisies), and deposited therein one egg so far. If I may venture on a few words of advice on knowledge bought and gained by experience I would say, Firstly: never buy cheap birds, especially Parrakeets. Parrakeets are long-lived birds, and it is folly to buy, say, Rosellas for £2 (a pair, and then to lose them both rather than pay £3 for an acclimatised pair. Secondly: never buy if you can possibly avoid it Parrakeets with their wings cut. They are liable to all kinds of accidents and never seem to thrive like the flying birds. If you must keep such birds, arrange some rough boughs for them to climb up into the shelters and to the food shelf. The only birds I have lost have had one wing clipped. Thirdly: never buy birds in any way malformed, especially about the beak. You will only regret it if you do.

In conclusion, let me say that Parrakeets are a good investment if bought wisely. One need never lose money over them, but, one should always insist on having the birds on approval or seeing them before paying for them. It is the experience of aviculturists that many breed readily in captivity, and for general interest and beauty they are impossible to beat. Their diet, too, is extremely simple, viz.: plenty of millet and canary in equal parts, and a small quantity of oats, hemp, rape, paddy rice, dari, and sunflower seeds. Most, if not all, are extremely fond of fruit, such as bananas, and apples, but oranges must be given sparingly. Cuttle-bone and grit are a *sine qua non*, and, I need hardly say an abundance of green food, as well as plenty of fresh clean water to drink, and for some of them at any rate to bathe in. Others will take a dew bath in the long grass.

One last word—don't imagine Parrakeets will dash off and lay eggs the moment you let them out of their travelling cage. They are shy birds and need time more than any other class of birds to settle down before they nest, and for the best results one should keep only one pair of each genus in each aviary, but if you would succeed with Parrakeets remember the pass-word is "Room."

List of Species of Psittaci Already Exhibited.

By Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.

During the winter evenings of last year and this I have spent a considerable amount of time in compiling the appended list of Parrot species which have appeared from time to time on the show-bench in this country, and I feel much gratified at our Editor consenting to insert it *in extenso* in our interesting Club Magazine, where it will always be available for reference. I am greatly indebted to him (Mr. Page), Mr. Tyson, Mr. Frostick, and Mr. Townsend for the loan of various show-catalogues, and have consequently been enabled to collate all the L.C.B.A. catalogues from 1893 to 1912, and those of the L.P.O.S. from 1892 to 1913, and a few of other societies. Should any fellow-member possess other catalogues, would he kindly examine them with a view to adding other species to the list.

I trust Mr. Allen Silver will pardon me for having filched a few Parrot names from the list he lately published in *Bird Life* of all species of foreign birds exhibited so far.

After mature consideration I have determined to arrange my list in alphabetical order so far as the English names are concerned, inserting two or more names, when synonymous, in their proper places. For instance *Barnardius zonarius* will be found as Bauer's Parrakeet under B, and as the Port Lincoln Parrakeet under P. I am not optimistic enough to claim finality or unimpeachable accuracy for the list.

Hazeleigh Rectory, October 10th, 1913.

A.

Abyssinian Lovebird (*Agapornis taranta*).
Adelaide Parrakeet (*Platycercus adelaidae*).
Alexandrine Parrakeet (*Palaeornis alexandri* and *P. nepalensis*).
All-green Parrakeet (*Brotogerys tirica*).
Ashy-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis ochroptera*)
Aubry's Parrot (*Poeocephalus aubryi* or *aubryanus*).

B.

Banded Parrakeet (*Palaeornis fasciata*).

Banksian Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*).
Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*Cacatua gymnopis*).
Barnard's Parrakeet (*Barnardius barnardi*).
Barraband's Parrakeet (*Polytelis barrabandi*).
Bauer's Parrakeet (*Barnardius zonarius*).
Bengal Parrakeet (*Palaeornis torquata*).
Black-capped Lory (*Lorius lory*).
Black-cheeked Lovebird (*Agapornis nigrigenis*).
Black-crowned Lory (*Lorius lory*).
Black-headed Caique (*Caica melanocephala*).
Black-headed Conure (*Conurus nenday*).
Black-headed Parrot (*Poicephalus senegalensis*).
Black-hooded Parrakeet (*Psephotus dissimilis*).
Black-masked Parrakeet (*Pyrrhulopsis personata*).
Black-tailed Parrakeet (*Polytelis melanura*).
Black throated Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus nigrigularis*).
Black Lory (*Chalcopsittacus ater*).
Black Parrot (*Caracopsis nigra*).
Black-winged Lory (*Eos cyanogenys*)
Blood-stained Cockatoo (*Cacatua sanguinea*).
Blood-winged Parrakeet (*Ptistes erythropterus*)
Blossom-headed Parrakeet (*Palaeornis cyanocephala*).
Blue and Yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*).
Blue-crowned Conure (*Conurus haemorrhous*).
Blue-crowned Hanging Parakeet (*Loriculus galgulus*).
Blue-eyed Cockatoo (*Cacatua ophthalmica*).
Blue-faced Amazon (*Chrysotis versicolor*).
Blue-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotisa estiva*).
Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)
Blue-mountain Lory (*Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae*)
Blue-rump Parrakeet (*Psittinus incertus*).
Blue-streaked Lory (*Eos reticulata*).
Blue-winged Grass Parrakeet (*Neophema venusta*)
Blue-winged Lovebird or Parrotlet (*Psittacula passerina*).
Bourke's Grass Parrakeet (*Neophema bourkei*).
Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*).
Brown-cheek Conure (*Conurus cactorum*).
Brown-throated Conure (*Conurus aeruginosus*)
Brown-throated Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus mitchelli*).
Brown's Parrakeet (*Platycercus browni*).
Budgerigar (Green, Yellow, Blue). (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)
Bulla-Bulla Parakeet (*Barnardius barnardi*).

C.

Cactus Conure (*Conurus cactorum*).
Caroline Conure (*Conuropsis carolinensis*).
Canary-winged Parrakeet (*Brotogerys chiriri*).
Ceram Lory (*Lorius flavopalliatus*).
Ceylonese Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus indicus*).

Chattering Lory (*Lorius garrulus*).
Citron-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua citrinocristata*).
Cockatiel (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*).
Corilla (or Covilla) Cockatoo (*Liometis nasica*).
Crimson-fronted Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus scintillatus*).
Crimson Lory (*Eos rubra*).
Crimson-winged Parrakeet (*Ptistes erythropterus*).
Cuban Parrot (*Chrysotis leucocephala*).

D.

Dampier Cockatoo (*Licmetis pastinator*).
Derbyan Parakeet (*Palaeornis derbyana*).
Diademed Amazon (*Chrysotis diademata*).
Double-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis levaillanti*.)
Ducorps' Cockatoo (*Cacatua ducorpsi*).
Dufresne's Amazon (*Chrysotis dufresniana*).
Dusky Parrot (*Pionus fuscus*).

E.

Elegant Grass Parrakeet (*Neophema elegans*).
Everett's Parrot (*Tanygnathus everetti*).

F.

Festive Amazon (*Chrysotis festiva*).
Fiji Hooded Parrakeet (*Pyrrhulopsis personata*).
Fiji Parrakeet (*P. tabuensis*).
Forstein's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus forsteni*).

G.

Ganga (or Gang-Gang) Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galeatum*).
Goffin's Cockatoo (*Cacatua goffini*).
Golden-crowned Parrakeet (*Cyanorhamphus auriceps*).
Golden-crowned Conure (*Conurus aureus*).
Golden-faced Parrakeet.
Golden-faced New Zealand Parrot (*Cyanorhamphus auriceps*).
Golden-fronted Parrakeet (*Brotogerys tuipara*).
Golden-headed Conure (*Conurus auricapillus*).
Golden-headed Parrakeet (*C. jendaya*).
Golden-shouldered Parrakeet (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*).
Gold-naped Amazon (*Chrysotis auripalliata*).
Grand Eclectus (*Eclectus roratus*).
Greater Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*).
Greater Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis vasa*).
Greater White-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*).
Great-billed Black Cockatoo (*Calytorhynchus macrorhynchus*).
Great-billed Parrakeet (*Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*).
Great Salmon-crested Cockatoo
Green (? -cheeked) Amazon (*Chrysotis viridigena*).
Green Conure (*Conurus leucopthalmus*).
Green-naped Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus cyanogrammus*).
Grey-headed Lovebird (*Agapornis cana*).

Grey-breasted Parrakeet (*Myopsittacus monachus*).
Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*).
Guiana Lovebird (*Agapornis guianensis*).
Guianan Parrotlet (*Psittacula guianensis*).

H.

Half-moon Parrakeet (*Conurus aureus*).
Hawk-headed Parrot (*Deroptyus accipitrinus*).
Hooded Parrakeet (*Psephotus dissimilis*).
Horned Parrakeet (*Nymphicus cornutus*).
Hyacinthine Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*).

I.

Illiger's Macaw (*Ara maracana*).
Indian Bearded Parrakeet (? *Palaeornis fasciata*).

J.

Jardine's Parrot (*Poeocephalus gulielmi*).
Javan Parrakeet (*Palaeornis alexandri*).
Jendaya Conure (*Conurus jendaya*).

K.

Kea Parrot (*Nestor notabilis*).
King Amazon (*Chrysotis aestiva*).
King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*).

L.

Large Indian Rock Parrot (*Palaeornis nepalensis*).
Lavender-breasted Parrakeet (*Myopsittacus monacha*).
Leadbeater's Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*).
Lemon-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua citrino-cristata*).
Lesser Patagonian Conure (*Cyanolyseus patagonus*).
Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*).
Lesser Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis nigra*).
Levaillant's Amazon (*Chrysotis levaillanti*).
Lineolated Parrakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineolatus*).
Long-tailed Parrakeet (*Palaeornis longicauda*).
Lucian Parrakeet (*Palaeornis modesta*).

M.

Madagascar Lovebird (*Agapornis cana*).
Malabar Parrakeet (*Palaeornis peristerodes*).
Malaccan Parrakeet (*Palaeornis longicauda*).
Many-coloured Parrakeet (*Psephotus multicolor*).
Masked Parrakeet (*Pyrrhulopsis personata*).
Maximilian's Amazon (*Pionus maximiliani*).
Mealy Amazon (*Chrysotis farinosa*).
Mealy Rosella Parrakeet (*Platycercus pollidiceps*).
Meyer's Parrot (*Poeocephalus meyeri*).
Military Macaw (*Ara militaris*).
Mitchell's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus mitchelli*).
Moluccan Cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*).
Mountain Ka-ka (*Nestor notabilis*).
Moustache Parrakeet (*Palaeornis fasciatus*).

Mrs. Johnstone's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus johnstoniae*).
Mueller's Parrakeet (*Tanygnathus muelleri*).
Muller's Eclectus (*Tanygnathus muelleri*).
Musky Lorikeet (*Glossopsittacus concinnus*).

N.

Nandy or Nenday Parrakeet (*Conurus nenday*).
New Zealand Parrakeet (*Cyanorhamphus novae-zealandiae*.

O.

Orange-breasted Parrakeet (*Neophema chrysogastra*).
Orange-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*).
Orange-flanked Parrakeet (*Brotogerys pyrrhopterus*).
Orange-shouldered Parrakeet (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*).
Ornamental (Ornate) Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus ornatus*).

P

Paradise Parrakeet (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*).
Passerine Parrotlet (*Psittacula passerina*).
Pavouane Parrakeet (*Conurus pavua*).
Peach-faced Lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis*).
Pennant's Parrakeet (*Platycercus elegans*).
Pigmy Parrot (*Nasiterna pymaea*).
Pileated Parrakeet (*Porphyrocephalus spurius*).
Pink-cheeked Parrakeet (*Palaeornis longicauda*).
Plain-coloured Amazon (*Chrysotis inornata*).
Plumhead Parrakeet (*Palaeornis cyanocephala*).
Porphyry-crowned (Purple-crowned) Lorikeet (*Glossopsittacus porphyrocephalus*).
Port Lincoln Parrakeet (*Barnardius zonarius*).
Princess of Wales Parrakeet (*Spathopterus alexandrae*).
Purple-breasted Lorikeet (*Eos ricinata*).
Purple-breasted Parrot (*Triclaria cyanogaster*).
Purple-capped Lory (*Lorius domicella*).

Q.

Quaker Parrakeet (*Myopsittacus monachus*).
Queen Alexandra Parrakeet (*Spathopterus alexandrae*).

R.

Red and Blue Macaw (*Ara macao*).
Red and Yellow Macaw (*Ara chloroptera*).
Red-banded (Red-collared) Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*.
Red-bellied Conure (*Pyrrhura vittata*).
Red-capped Parrakeet (*Porphyrocephalus spurius*).
Red-capped Parrot (*Pionopsittacus pileatus*).
Red-crowned Lorikeet (*Ptilosclera versicolor*).
Red-faced Lovebird (*Agapornis pullaria*).
Red-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis vittata*).
Red-fronted Lory (*Chalcopsittacus scintillatus*).
Red-headed Conure (*Conurus rubrolarvatus*).
Red-headed Hanging Parrakeet (*Loriculus indicus*).
Red Lory (*Eos rubra*).

Red-mantled Parrakeet (*Platycercus erythropeplus*).
Red-naped Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*).
Red-rumped Parrakeet (*Psephotus haematonotus*).
Red-sided Eclectus (*Eclectus pectoralis*).
Red-star New- Zealand Parrakeet (*Cyanorhamphus novae-zealandiae*).
Red-vented Blue Bonnet (*Psephotus haematorrhous*).
Red-vented Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*).
Red-winged Parrakeet (*Ptistes erythropterus*).
Ring-necked Parrakeet (*Palaeornis torquata*).
Rock Australian Parrot (*Neophema petrophila*).
Rock Grass Parrakeet (*Neophema petrophila*).
Rock Pebbler (Pepler) (*Polytelis melanura*).
Rose (Rosy-headed) Parrakeet (*Palaeornis rosa*).
Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Cacatua roseicapilla*).
Rose-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*).
Rosella Parrakeet (*Platycercus eximius*).
Rosy-faced Lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis*).
Ruby Lorikeet (*Eos rubra*).
Russ' Parrakeet.

S.

St. Thomas' Conure (*Conurus pertinax*).
Salmon-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*).
Salvin's Amazon (*Chrysotis salvini*).
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (*Psitteuteles chlorolepidotus*).
Scarlet Eclectus (*Eclectus pectoralis*).
Scarlet Lorikeet (*Eos rubra*).
Senegal Parrot (*Poeocephalus senegalensis*).
Shining Parrakeet (*Pyrrhulopsis splendens*).
Slaty-headed Parrakeet (*Palaeornis schisticeps*).
Slender-billed Cockatoo (*Licmetis nasica*).
South Sea Island Cockatoo.
Spectacled Amazon (*Chrysotis albifrons*).
Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsittacus spixi*).
Stanley Parrakeet (*Platycercus icterotis*).
Stella's Lory (*Charmosyne stellae*).
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*).
Sun Conure (*Conurus solstitialis*).
Swainson's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae*).

T.

Tabuan Parrakeet (*Pyrrhulopsis tabuensis*).
Three-coloured Lory (*Lorius lory*).
Tovi Parrakeet (*Brotogerys jugularis*).
Tui Parrakeet (*Brotogerys tui*).
Turquoisine Grass Parrakeet (*Neophema pulchella*).

U.

Uvaean Parrakeet (*Nymphicus uvaeensis*).

V.

Varied Lorikeet (*Ptiloselera versicolor*).
Vinaceous Amazon (*Chrysotis vinacea*).
Violet-bellied Parrot (*Triclaria cyanogaster*).
Violet-headed Amazon (*Pionus menstruus*).
Violet-necked Lory (*Eos riciniata*).
Violet Parrot (*Pionus fuscus*).

W.

Westermann's Eclectus (*Eclectus westermanni*).
White-browed Amazon (*Chrysotis albifrons*).
White-eared Conure (*Pyrrhura leucotis*).
White-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis leucocephala*).
White-headed Parrot (*Pionus senilis*).
White-winged Parrakeet (*Brotogerys virescens*).

Y.

Yellow-backed Lory (*Lorius flavopalliatus*).
Yellow-bellied Parrakeet (*Platycercus flaviventris*).
Yellow-cheeked Amazon (*Chrysotis autumnalis*).
Yellow Conure (*Conurus solstitialis*).
Yellow-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis ochrocephala*).
Yellow-headed Conure (*Conurus jendaya*).
Yellow-mantled Parrakeet (*Platycercus splendidus*).
Yellow-naped Amazon (*Chrysotis auripalliata*).
Yellow-naped Parrakeet (*Barnardius semitorquatus*).
Yellow Ring-necked Parrakeet (*Palaeornis torquata v. lutea*).
Yellow-rumped Parrakeet (*Platycercus flaveolus*).
Yellow-shouldered Amazon (*Chrysotis ochroptera*).
Yellow-vented Blue Bonnet (*Psephotus xanthorrhous*).

[It should be noted that the above list was commenced long before Mr. Silver's list appeared in "Bird Life," and being alphabetical is more convenient for purposes of reference.—Ed.]

Editorial.

In consequence of the claims of several articles to our space, these notes are omitted entirely this month, and in consequence, of there being rather a large number of Half-tone plates, the coloured plate is held over till December issue.

ERRATA: Re L.C.B.A. Show: Owing to a printer's error this was announced as taking place at the "Royal Agricultural Hall." It will be held at the usual *venu* ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL, Westminster.

Page 302, line 5, "vary" should read *are very*.

Page 306, line 4, "country" should read *county*.

Page 312, The opening of Mr. Raynor's article should read: *It was not.*

From All Sources

"THE BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND."

The Hon. Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner for New Zealand, lecturing before the United Empire Circle of the Lyceum Club, London, on the Birds of New Zealand, in describing the geological history of New Zealand, stated that the islands comprising the Dominion were but the remnant of what was at one time a great continent. Evidence in support of that was forthcoming both within and without New Zealand, and Professors Huxley and Owen had enlarged on that subject.

In New Zealand, there was, he said, an entire absence of mammals, but life was represented by huge birds of the struthious orders, and remains of many species of Dinornis had been found. Professor Owen had from a fragment of femur bone reconstructed the type of bird formerly in existence in the Dominion, and many other remains had been found showing that these gigantic birds had been 15 feet high. Living specimens, represented by the *Apteryx* family, were still to be found in the country. Discussion had been carried on from time to time as to the period when these gigantic birds ceased to exist; but from Mr. Mackenzie's own investigations, when on exploring expeditions, and from the legends of the natives, it was evident that the Maori and the Moa had been contemporaries.

The lecturer described the Kiwi and its singular habits—how the male bird performed the act of incubation. He dealt upon the habits and customs of other wingless birds peculiar to New Zealand, and described the Tui, the Huia, the Kea, the Notornis, Mantelli, &c.

Referring to the question of the vanishing species, the High Commissioner described what had been done by the New Zealand Government towards their preservation. Sanctuaries had been set aside on the mainland, and islands were also being used for that purpose. He stated that legislation had been placed on the statute book during a number of years. Speaking generally on the disappearance of many species throughout the world, Mr. Mackenzie said that future generations would regard in one respect the work of the Twentieth Century with abhorrence, inasmuch as that century witnessed the disappearance of many of the most beautiful creatures with which the Almighty had adorned the earth. Destruction was carried on wantonly and cruelly and almost exclusively for millinery purposes. The Nineteenth Century had done much in the process of extermination, but the Twentieth would in that respect mark a deplorable epoch.

At the close of his lecture a number of very beautiful coloured pictures of birds were thrown upon the screen.

[We have much pleasure in responding to a request to publish the above and also hope that it will accomplish something towards abolishing the detestable fashion of wearing wild birds' plumage.—Ed.]

PLUMAGE SALES.

The following cutting speaks for itself, and comment is superfluous.—Ed.

Picturesque Feathers in the London Market.

"Any one with a taste for the recondite in birds' plumage could have picked up a comprehensive assortment at the October fancy feather sales at the London Commercial Sale Rooms, particulars of which have been sent us by Mr. James Buckland, of the Royal Colonial Institute.

The list of prices were as follows:—Ospreys, 11,099oz., from £5 to £11 5s. per ounce for short selected, and from £3 17s. 6d. to £7 10s. for long; Birds of Paradise, dark plumes from £5 to £11 2s. 6d., light plumes from 25s. to £9 17s. 6d. In all 3203 birds of paradise were sold. Crowned Pigeons' heads and Crests from 2s. 3d. to 7s.; Parrots from 9½d. to 1¼d. each; Kingfishers 2¼d.; 232 pairs of Macaw wings realised from 7d. to 1s. 1d. per pair; Japanese Long Tail Pheasants, 2s. 1d.; Golden Pheasants 1s. 10d.; Rhea feathers 12s. 6d. per pound; Condor of the Andes 12s. each; Red Ibis 7d.; Emu skins (of which 297 were sold), from 9s. to 12s., white Crane wing quill feathers, 1½d.; Eagle wing quill feathers ½d.; Jays ½d. each."—From the *Standard*, 28/10/'13. (Per Rev. G. H. Raynor).

* * *

Correspondence

BREEDING RESULTS 1913.

Sir,—You ask for results, and the following are the doings of my small series of birds:—

Red-rump Parrakeets (*Psephotus haematonotus*). Only two have been reared this season, three young cocks were reared to the point of leaving the nest, but one died shortly afterwards.

Cockatiels (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*). My Cockatiels have had three nests, and seven young birds have been fully reared. The broods were, three, three, and one respectively.

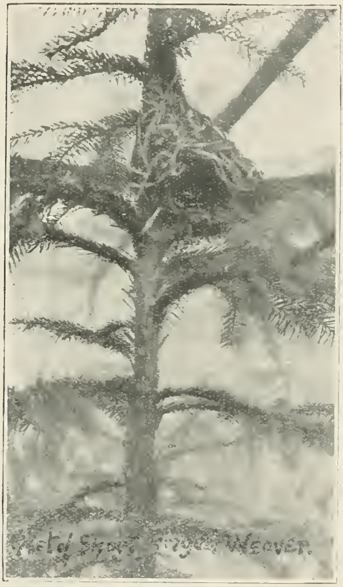
Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*). These have had two nests, but the young have not left the last nest at present. The first nest yielded four young birds, two cocks and two hens.

White Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora, var. alba*). Only one nest and only one chick hatched out, which has been fully reared.

BUDGERIGARS (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). These have all done well, both the Green and Yellow varieties. The birds from which I have had no results are: Three-coloured Mannikins (*Munia malacca*), Grey Singingfinches (*Serinus leucopygius*), not a true pair I think Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximius*).

(Mrs.) W. H. READ.

NEST OF SHORT-WINGED WEAVER (*Hyphantornis brachyptera*).



SIR.—Enclosed is another photo of the nest of the Short-winged Weaver. It is a better photo than the one figured in last issue, and is placed in a different situation, which has to some extent modified the shape; this time the site chosen was the fork of a Spruce Fir. I am afraid it is too late to breed them this season, but, quite expect to do so next. I have just acquired four other species of Weavers, viz.: (*Pyromelana melanocephala*), The Black-headed Weaver; (*Pyromelana abyssinica*) the Abyssinian Weaver; (*Pyromelana taha*) the Taha Weaver; (*Sitagra guttata*) the Spotted Weaver.

The breeding season appears to be nearly over with me now.

W. SHORE BAILY.

Sept. 26th, 1913

RE BREEDING OF GREY WAXBILLS.

SIR,—Being interested in Mr. Bainbrige's article *re* above in last issue of "Bird Notes," I should like to add that in 1912 a pair built four nests during the season, July to September, and on each occasion laid three small white eggs and brooded for a few days only and then forsook them. Unfortunately I lost the hen on September 7th, 1912, and the male at the end of December, so my chances ended and I have not since replaced the species. I found them very shy in their movements when building, but managed to observe that the male cut off green grasses and carried them to the female who stayed on the nesting site and helped to arrange them. The nest in each case was on the ground in the midst of growing plants, and when completed looked like a clump of green grasses rounded or domed on the upper part, with entrance hole at side. The grasses used in lining the nests were finer than those on the outside, but only in one case were feathers introduced and then but three or four, not enough to call it a lining of feathers.

I have just come across the following in "Bird Notes," Vol II., No. 9, December, 1903, page 248, by Lady Dunleath:

"The Common African Waxbills built a nest like a round "ball of grass, on the ground, and reared three young ones, etc."

And again, a more amplified version of the above in the "Avicultural Magazine," Vol. II., New Series, No. 3, January, 1904, page 113.

I am wondering whether the above record has been overlooked.

ERNEST SPRANKLING.

P.S.—My successful results up to the present are about a dozen young Zebra Finches, 4 Long-tailed Grassfinches, and 3 young Goldfinches. I have also at present 3 young in the nest nearly ready to come out, also Green Budgerigars, and Long-tailed Grassfinches a few days old.

British Bird Calendar.

October 1.—Three Siskins (*Chrysomitris spinus*) were seen on the top of one of the aviaries. This is the first time they have been observed here for years; evidently being attracted by a pair of their fellows within the aviary.

B.H.S., Ipswich, 6-x.-'13.

October 2.—Two Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) were seen here; one, a male, was shot. I believe this to be the first instance of one being shot in this district, but I have no means of finding out. Ducks are not numerous, weather too warm. Two or three Mallard have been seen, but these were home reared birds.

M.F., Huntingdon, 20-x.-'13.

October 16. Several Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), a Pochard (*Nyroca ferina*), a Teal (*Nettium crecca*), several flocks of Green Plover (*Vanellus cristatus*), and a few Mallard (*Anas boscas*) were seen at Holywell, which is just below St. Ives.

M.F., Huntingdon, 20-x.-'13.

October 7 and 8.—October is the month in which most of our winter migrants arrive. During the first few days I did not notice any movement in numbers but on the 7th and 8th, there were simply hundreds of Gold-crests. On one tree in the garden I counted eleven on the 7th, and on the 8th another big batch arrived. I am satisfied they were not the arrivals of the previous day, because, you could catch them with a hand-net, and, several were caught by children in the streets.

October 16. Saw an unusual number of Blue-, and Great-Tits.

R.S. Cleethorpes. 30/10/'13.

October 11—21.—Larks commenced to arrive about the 11th, and, straggling parties could be seen any day, but on the 21st, about 11 a.m., there was a continuous line of them, and you could see them for miles each way; this is the only day I have seen them in such numbers.

R.S., Cleethorpes, 30/10/'13.

October 27.—Saw a solitary Hooded Crow.

R.S. Cleethorpes, 30/10/'13.

October 29.—Saw a huge flock of Starlings, making land, they were flying fast and not more than six feet above the water. R.S., Cleethorpes, 30/10/'13.

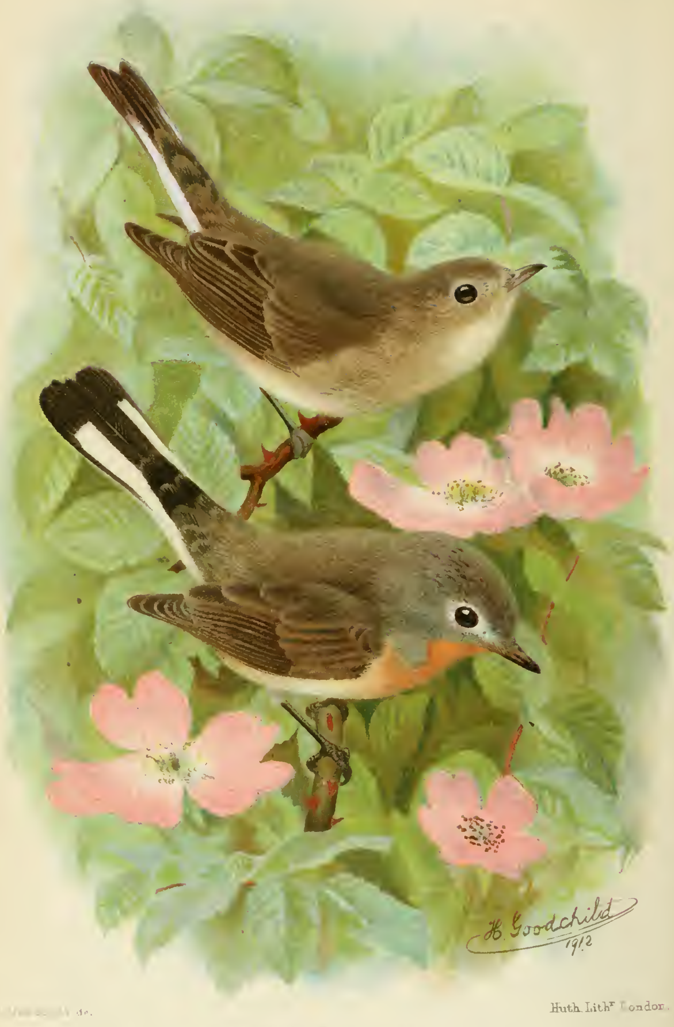
October 1.—Saw 6 Swallows flying south.
October 2.— ,, 10 (about) Swallows flying south.
October 3.— ,, 40 (about) Swallows flying south.
October 4.— ,, a few Swallows flying south.
October 6.— ,, Several small parties going south.
October 9.— ,, four or five hawking flies at 4-30 p.m.
October 12.— ,, one only.
October 13.—Three seen at 4 p.m., leaving the coast in a southerly direction.
October 7.—Two Chiff-chaffs seen, none since.

P.G., Beaulieu, 3/11/'13.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules (See Page iii of Cover.)

None to hand at time of going to Press; if in time will be inserted in green paper Inset.


H. Goodchild
1912

H. Goodchild del. Huth Lith^r London.

THE RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER. ♂ & ♀.

Muscicapa parva, *Bechstein*.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Red-breasted Flycatcher.

(*Muscicapa parva*).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

The coloured plate, around which these notes are written, is a worthy wind up to another volume of the Club Journal and as regards the birds is beyond criticism; in fact, the only point open to remark is that there is a little too much flower in the background for a beautiful, but, not gorgeously apparelled bird; however, the plate is a credit both to artist and lithographer.

All Flycatchers, Robins, Redstarts, and their near relatives make most interesting cage and aviary pets, all have the mannerisms of our familiar Redbreast; attributes which endear him alike to the dweller in town or country, and qualities, the feathered possessors of which may be sure of a welcome anywhere; for this reason the subject of these notes will always receive more than passing notice from the keepers of soft-bills —moreover he possesses the additional attraction of being an occasional visitor to the British Isles, for he has been taken at Scarborough; Scilly Is.; Berwick-on-Tweed; Norfolk; North Uist Light, Scotland, and from several lights off the coast of Ireland.

The species is quite a wanderer, for it has been taken in Holland, Denmark, and Sweden; is an occasional visitor to Southern France and S.W. Spain; it is common but local in central Europe generally during the summer months. It is only a migrant to Italy, Mediterranean Is., and Southern Europe—it breeds in N.E. Germany, S. Russia, Caucasus, N. Persia, and also very probably in Turkestan and Siberia. In winter it ranges over N.W. India and N. Africa.

Howard Saunders states in his "Manual of British Birds" regarding its habits :—

"The Red-breasted Flycatcher arrives in Northern Germany "in May (generally leaving early in September); and it appears "to be partial to the woods of beech and hornbeam, or those where "beech and fir are mixed. The nest, built early in June, is "rather deep and cup-shaped, neatly formed of moss and a few "lichens, with a lining of dry grass and hair. It is usually placed "in a hole in the trunk or some rotten branch of a beech tree, "but occasionally in a fork against the stem, from six to seven "feet from the ground. In appearance the eggs, 5—7 in number, "are intermediate between those of the Redbreast and the Spotted "Flycatcher, having a very pale greenish ground-colour, with "mottlings of rusty-brown: measurements .63 by .5in. The young "are hatched towards the end of June, and their food, like that of "the adults, consists of insects, in search of which the birds soon "leave their breeding-grounds in the forests for gardens and "orchards in the vicinity. The habits of this species are lively "and active, and in pugnacity, as in plumage, the male resembles "our Redbreast. It has a pleasant song, resembling the syllables "*tivi* several times repeated, while the alarm note is a clear "*pink, pink.*"

Description. Adult Male: Above, mostly ashy-brown, with the crown and nape browner; sides of face and ear-coverts grey, which merges into the grey-brown of the sides of the neck; lores hoary; round the eye a narrow ring of white feathers; quills dark brown, the primaries edged narrowly with ashy-brown; upper tail-coverts and tail dark brown, the latter consists of twelve feathers, of which the outer four pairs have very conspicuous white bases; chin, throat, and upper breast ruddy-orange; remainder of under surface dull white, sides of body pale buffish and thighs ashy; bill and legs brown; iris brown. Total length 5⅛in., tail 2.

Adult female: Above brown, which is also the colour of the sides of face and ear-coverts; wings brown, the coverts and flights edged with lightish brown; throat, upper-breast and sides of body tinged with fulvous; abdomen and under tail-coverts white. Total length 4⅞in., tail 2.

Young: According to Howard Saunders the nestling plumage is spotted, and later the wing-coverts and secondaries become tipped with buff; otherwise it resembles the female. The young male pairs in the immature plumage of the first year; the orange-red on the throat does not extend to the breast till the third year.

Mr. Goodchild's drawing was made from the bird exhibited by Mr. C. T. Maxwell at the L.C.B.A. Show of 1911, where it was awarded second prize, the premier honours of the class going to a pair of Wall Creepers. The difficulty of getting this capable bird-keeper to write about his birds is, I think, pretty well known, and I have only succeeded in getting a very brief account from him, as follows:—

MY RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER: "I am afraid that "I have almost forgotten what little I knew about the "Red-breasted Flycatcher, which occupies the place of honour, and is so ably portrayed by Mr. Goodchild in this "month's magazine. It was in my possession six months, "and was a most delightful bird in a cage (unfortunately "I have no aviaries), it being very tame and fearless; but "I found it somewhat delicate, as when I could get no insect-life but mealworms, it soon sickened and died. This "is rather strange, as I have since kept a hen of this species "for nearly a year, which I did not take any trouble with "at all, for it simply shared a small flight with some other "Flycatchers, White-eyes, etc., and where it got nothing "special in the way of food, but just an ordinary mixture "and mealworms cut in halves."—C. T. Maxwell.

The above experience speaks for itself: personally I have not found Flycatchers difficult to keep, once they have been nursed over the prostration, which usually follows importation. I find these, and the Redstarts and Robins take insectivorous mixture, insects, and a few sips of the milk-sop occasionally, but, my birds have been kept either in indoor-flights or a garden aviary, where, in addition to the mealworms, etc. supplied, they captured endless midges and other insects, even during any genial autumn or winter day.

I strongly recommend the *Muscicapidae* to any member requiring birds of character, and, capable of being made pets of, whether kept in cage or aviary.

Breeding of Turtle Dove Hybrids, etc.

BY ERNEST SPRANKLING.

I believe it is well known that the hybrids between the wild Turtle Dove (*Turtur turtur*) and the common Barbary Dove (*Turtur risorius*) are fertile, but a few remarks thereon may not be out of place. In the autumn of the year 1911 a pair of young, hand-reared Wild Turtle Doves in immature plumage were brought to me, and, as they appeared very tame I purchased them. They had been kept, and were in a rather small wire-fronted box, consequently were not in the best of plumage, but could be easily handled.

My first thought was to give them more room, so I took the box into my wild planted aviary and quietly opened the door, but no sooner did they find themselves out of the box than they flew violently about in all directions, banging themselves badly; however, I left them, hoping they would settle down, but I found that whenever I appeared on the scene they behaved very madly and further damaged themselves, so I transferred them to a small covered aviary some 6 feet square. Whenever I fed them they were almost as bad, so, knowing a friend that wanted a pair, I transferred them to his care. My friend put these Doves into box cages, about 2ft. 6in. × 1ft. 6in., and these appeared to suit them, for they soon settled down and became fairly tame, though very shy of strangers.

These two Turtles turned out to be males, and in the spring one mated to a hen Common Barbary Dove, and later the other cock to a hen White Java Dove. The result from the Turtle and Barbary mating was four youngsters fully reared, and, from the Turtle and hen White Java Dove, one youngster fully reared. The four young from the first-named were practically all alike, resembling in colour (perhaps greyer) the male parent but of a more even tone, the neck ring being more like the Barbary but wider. The one youngster from the Turtle and White Java Dove does not vary much from the other four hybrids except, that all the upper feathers are much browner and more like the brown bordering of the scapular feathers of the male parent, showing that the potency of the male is greater with the white crossing than with the common Barbary. All these young partake of the wild nature of the male parent and are all males. From the foregoing it will be seen that the net result for 1912 was five young fully reared. During the following winter my friend exchanged one of the cock Turtles for a hen of the same species, as he wished to try his hand at breeding these birds.

I acquired the four young hybrids of the Turtle and Barbary cross, and, during the last spring mated one of them to

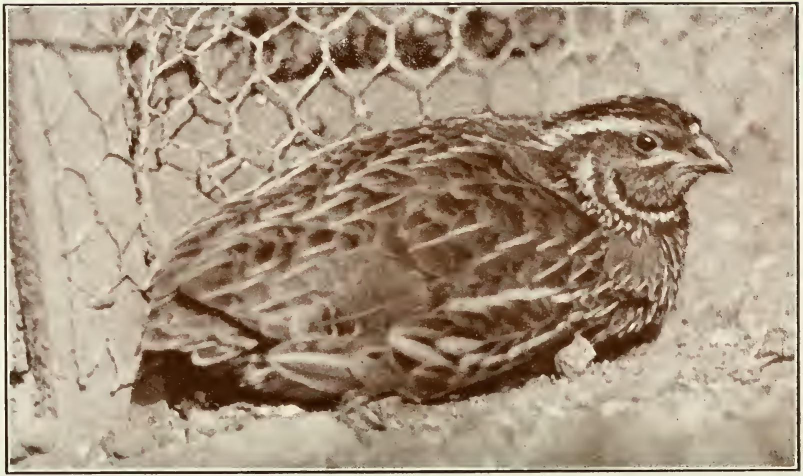


Photo by E. O. Page.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*).

a common hen Barbary, the net result being three youngsters fully reared, two almost indistinguishable from the Barbary mother and the other almost exactly like the hybrid father, the only distinguishing mark being an extremely slight one in the beak of all the youngsters. Further the youngsters like the female parent in plumage are females, and the one with plumage resembling the father is a very forward male.

My friend retained the hybrid bred from the Turtle and White Java hen and mated him to his white parent, the result being one white pink-eyed youngster, a hen; this bird also has the slight distinguishing mark on beak as mentioned above. All these 1913 bred young are às tame as the Common Barbary, so it seems that their wild nature has been bred out.

Two other eggs were laid and one youngster hatched, but probably owing to my friend's interference in placing a Turtle Dove's egg under the sitting white hen no more hybrids were reared; she however, reared the young Turtle instead.

The pair of Turtles before mentioned were mated and had several lots of eggs, but owing to the male bird's aggressive action to the hen in refusing to let her sit for any length of time, all the other eggs were spoilt, except in the case of the one mentioned above. All these birds except the old White Java hen (which my friend still retains) are in my possession, and I hope to carry the breeding further in the coming year.

[It would be of interest if Mr. Sprankling described the "slight distinguishing mark on beak" of the young hybrids. —Ed.].

* * *

The Common or Migratory Quail

(*Coturnix coturnix*).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Synonyms: *Tetrao coturnix*, Linn.; *Perdix coturnix*, Lath.; *Coturnix communis*, Bonn.; *Coturnix dactylisonans*, Temm.; *Coturnix vulgaris*, Bout.; *Coturnix coturnix*, Licht.

To prevent confusion, I have commenced with a list of scientific synonyms, and am penning these few notes in response to many requests for something about the Common Quail and the reason it does not breed freely in our aviaries, accompanying them with a photo-illustration of one of a pair presented to me by my predecessor in office, Dr. George Creswell. For several years this pair had a place in my aviary at Shepherd's Bush, but neither laid nor gave any indications of nesting, which is scarcely to be wondered at, as, owing to the number and kind kept in a limited space, not a blade of grass was permitted to grow.

First, a few general remarks. Of all living birds I suppose these are the most prolific of any, for in spite of the vast slaughter for edible purposes, the annual migration crowds are not sensibly diminished, though they vary somewhat in respective years. The cognomen of migratory is very appropriate, for the countless hosts of this species move their quarters in September and October—vast quantities wintering both in India and Africa. As regards their movements I will quote Col. C. H. Smith as follows :—

> " Enormous flights are annually observed at the spring and " fall, after crossing an immense surface of sea, to take a brief " repose in islands of Malta, Sicily, Sardinia, Crete, in the kingdom " of Naples, and about Constantinople, where, on these occasions, " there is a general shooting match, which lasts two or three " days. This occurs always in the autumn. The birds, starting " from the Crimea about seven at night, and with a northerly wind " before dawn accomplish a passage of above sixty leagues in " breadth, and alight on the southern shore to feed and repose. " In the vernal season the direction of the flight is reversed, and " they arrive in similar condition on the Russian coast. The same " phenomena occur in Malta, etc."

The following quotation fully indicates that many are lost while crossing the sea when nearing the end of their journey :—

> " Being at a small town on the coast, I saw some boats " come in containing ten or a dozen sharks. They were all opened " before me, and there was not one which had not from eight to " twelve Quails in its body."—M. Pellicot.

Tickell remarks as to their numbers in India, that on suitable ground they were like locusts in number, and that:

> " A furtive scratch of the head, or a wipe of the heated " brow, dismissed a whole bevy into the next field . . . . " Quails at times abound to such a degree that shooting them is " mere slaughter."

A sketchy description of my pair is as follows :—

Male: Above sandy-brown, with the shaft-stripe pale buff and variegated with black bars and markings; chin and throat white, with a black mark (anchor-shaped) down the middle, terminating with an arm each side curving upwards to the ear-coverts (see photo); chest ruddy-buff, with pale shaft-streaks; remainder of under surface similar, but paler and lacking the ruddy tinge. Total length 6¾ins., tail 1½.

Female: Similar in general plumage, but has no black mark down the throat, and has the chest rather thickly spotted with black.

There is considerable variation in colouration, and undoubtedly the species and local races frequently overlap.

The Common Quail breeds not uncommonly in Great Britain, though it is not commonly met with; they are mostly spring visitors and usually leave in October, but in suitable winters a few remain with us. It is best known to us by the huge supplies in the season at the various poultry markets, when living birds may be procured for about two shillings, or less, per pair.

Probably because of its cheapness it is not often given suitable aviary accommodation, but placed in a grassy enclosure it should certainly prove even more prolific than the Californian Quail. The most promising aviary for them would be one that had growing grasses, tall and dwarf, with patches of bare earth at intervals and some low-growing bushes, or tall bushes with branches to the ground, under which the Quail could take cover at will. I did not find them so hardy as either the Californian or Chinese Quail. It any of our members have bred this species, I hope they will send in details.

The nest is merely a hollow in the ground with a few bents gathered together round the sides; the eggs, 15 to 18 in number, are yellowish-white speckled with ruddy-brown. Their food is leaves, grass, seeds and insects, sought principally in the more open areas.

In captivity they take seed, insectivorous mixture, levy a heavy toll on the growing herbage, and secure what they can when live food is distributed. When they have a brood, live and dried ants' eggs and gentles should be freely supplied during the first week or more, in fact till you see them eating heartily of the ordinary aviary foods.

I have purposely kept these notes to a limited space as I desire that others who have kept and possibly bred them will give their experience.

* * *

Editorial.

A RETROSPECT: This issue brings us to the close of another volume of our Club Journal, which, as we think, all will agree, in variety and practical interest fully equals any of its predecessors.

It contains five coloured plates, viz.: Indian White-eye; Fairy Blue-bird; Blue-rumped Parrot; Melba and Red-faced Finches; and Red-breasted Flycatcher, all by Mr. Goodchild. Our half-tone and line illustrations have been very numerous, and while some photos do not reproduce as well as others, yet the quality has been good all round. They have depicted Wild Bird Life—Aviaries and Plans—Aviary Nesting Episodes, and other features of aviculture. We have again to acknowledge our indebtedness to H. Willford, Esq., for allowing us to reproduce many of his beautiful photos of wild bird-life and to many others for interesting photos of nests and other features of bird-life in the aviary. In our text we are assured that there has been matter for both the aviculturist and the ornithologist, while topics of elementary aviculture have not been wanting—the tyro is ever with us and he has not been neglected. To all contributors of copy and illustration we tender our best thanks.

A number of species have been bred for the first time in Great Britain by our members, but as the list is not complete, we shall refer to this matter in our next issue. While on this topic we again strongly urge our members to secure the fullest possible data concerning all nesting and other episodes that take place in our aviaries, so that no possible data will be lacking. We venture to think more might have been done in this direction and trust our members will take fullest possible notes during 1914. Copy of this kind is most valuable and tends to greatly enhance the value of your Journal.

EXHIBITIONAL SECTION: Changes have taken place during the year, and a new Society "Foreign Bird Exhibitors' League," has been started, not connected with F.B.C., nor yet in opposition to it, having for its object the extension of classification, etc. Their inaugural attempt will be a matter of history when these notes appear; we hope success will have attended their venture. As in the past, we give patronage to all Societies who apply for it, according to our regulations, and offer medals and cups for competition among our members at Open Shows. It is yet too early to speak of this season. Exhibitors can only secure an increased classification by supporting what is given. If facts point to a demand for an increase, this will always be forthcoming, as it is a mere case of supply and demand.

OUR PROGRESS: Again this has been steady and it will be seen in January next that the revised roll will total 400 *bona-fide* members; but in this respect we must not "rest on our oars," for there is always a larger or smaller annual leakage in every society, and again we ask the assistance of every member to seek new members, and to make the Foreign Bird Club and its Journal known to all who are interested in bird-life, so that in the shortest possible time we may reach a total of at least 500. There is no time like the commencement of a fresh volume and another year's work to gather in new members.

To accomplish what has been done, on a small membership, has entailed a heavy burden upon all, and a constant drain upon our funds, making it necessary for us to ask for your generous help to the Deficit and Illustration Funds; given this, by the end of another year our difficulties will be past.

We desire specially to thank the Rev. G. H. Raynor for valued assistance in proof correction, and Mr. W. A. Bainbridge for compiling the index of English Names of Birds for the current volume.

We congratulate our Members on a successful year's work and take the past as a happy augury for the future.

* * *

Correspondence

RESULTS 1913.

Sir.—Here is a bare summary for this year, which may probably prove of some comparative interest to other members:—

WHITE JAVA SPARROWS (*Munia oryzivora v. alba*): These have had three clutches (five each time) of eggs, all infertile, yet they are an undoubted pair, and the cock quite a songster.

BENGALESE (*Uroloncha domestica*); First clutch, three infertile eggs Second clutch, four eggs, of which one hatched out, but the hen died when the nestling was two weeks old, and the cock did not rear it.

BENGALESE × SILVERBILL: One young bird of this cross was hatched and reared up to the point of being fully fledged, but did not fend for itself.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Taeniopygia castanotis*): Twelve young have been reared by one pair.

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californica*): Twenty-two reared by one pair, the second brood of which are now fast getting adult plumage.

BIB FINCHES (*Spermestes nana*): These have nested late, and, there are now (Nov. 4th) four young ready to leave the nest.

SILVERBILLS (*Aidemosyne cantans*): Five young in nest, just about fully grown.

GREY SINGING-FINCHES (*Serinus leucopygius*): These nested, but the nest was knocked out of the bush by the young Quail. It contained three eggs, all fertile, evidently all but due to hatch.

RIBBON FINCHES (*Amadina fasciata*): These have had five broods of varying numbers, of which none have been fully reared, they all seem to be murdered by their parents, and thrown out just as they are fully feathered.

WAXBILLS: These seem to take too much interest in each other's affairs to achieve success, but, the following have all nested and had eggs, but none have hatched out. Orange-cheeks, Gold-breasts, Green and Common Avadavats, and, though not Waxbills, Spice Finches (*Munia punctulata*), have the same record.

None of my other birds have attempted to breed.

W. O. MONTGOMERY.

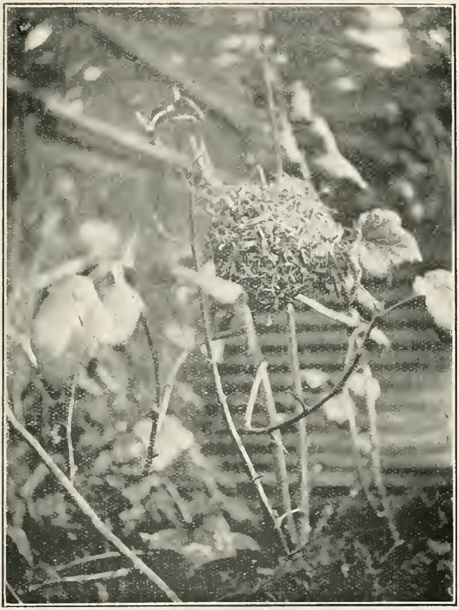
Hornsea, Yorks,
November, 4, 1913.

Sir.—In my small aviary, which I only put up this year, I have had young of Zebra, Long-tailed Grass, Ringed and Firefinches reared to maturity. Gouldian and Cuba Finches, also Cordon Bleus nested and had clutches of eggs, but did not hatch out.

Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh. J. CURRIE.
November 21st, 1913.

NEST OF ABYSSINIAN WEAVERS. (*Pyromelana abyssinica*).

Sir,—I am sending you yet another photo of a Weaver's nest, built by my newly imported Abyssinian Weaver. This species is the most handsome of the Yellow-Weavers I have yet seen. The nest is perfectly round, not pear-shaped, the opening being on the underside. It is the size of a large Florida Grape-Fruit, and was built of grass interwoven with currant leaves; it differs from any other Weaver's nest I have had built this year, by having a division in the middle. Both birds took part in the building.



So far no eggs have been laid, and I am afraid it is too late in the season to expect them.

Westbury, Wilts., W. SHORE-BAILY.
October 28th, 1913.

FURTHER NESTING OF GRAND ECLECTUS PARROTS.

Sir,—In reply to your request for fresh details *re* my second success with the Grand Eclectus Parrot, I am afraid I can add but little to the account I gave of their initial success, when they reared two young birds, which are still living, for there seemed to be no change in their methods.

The male fed the female almost entirely during the incubation period, and also for about three weeks after the chick was hatched. The female alone fed the young bird till it left the log, when it it was about three months old. As soon as it left the log, its care was left entirely to the male, who still continues to be very fond if it; the hen takes no notice whatever, but is not cross, as she was to her two young ones last year.

While the young bird was in the log, she was as devoted and careful as with her previous brood, hardly ever leaving it, and always returning from any distance if she thought it was being inspected, either by myself or the cock.

This young one is a female and a fine bird. There were two nests before—two eggs each time, but unfortunately the eggs were clear.

Except for this Eclectus I have had nothing in the breeding line to chronicle, save a few Finches.

Diamond Finches have had nest after nest, yet have only fully reared four, very fine, young birds. Saffron Finches have also had many nests, but with no result.

My Brown's Parrakeets, after three years, still show no signs of going to nest, yet they are as healthy and brisk as possible.

Cockatiels have as usual been most prolific.

(Miss) M. DRUMMOND.

Mains of Megginch, Errol.
November 17th, 1913.

NESTING OF FIREFINCHES

Sir,—Mr. Bainbridge's account of these "wee mites" was most interesting and practical.

Early last year I saw a really good pair in a West-end dealer's, bought them, and at once turned them into a garden-aviary. They went to nest almost at once, and three young were reared; one died later, the other two were disposed of. I brought the adults indoors last autumn, and they nested several times without any result. In the early part of this summer I put them into the aviary again, and they soon went to nest, with the result that three young birds were turned out into the world. After a week one soon tired of life, for I found it hanging by a bit of thread in the aviary and quite dead.

Very soon they went to nest again, in fact the time was very short, for I really did not miss the hen, but one morning last week (October) three more young birds turned out into the cold world and are doing well. They are funny little mites, they make one think of the Wagtail and Nightingale by the way they raise the tail up and down. For better or for worse they are to stay out in the garden-aviary all the winter, but they will be very snug in the shelter. It is a great pity that now the days are colder and shorter most of the birds seem to be very keen on the building of nests of course their proper nesting season, and one cannot alter it.

(Miss) LYDIA CLARE.

Wimbledon, S.W.
October 31, 1913.

NESTING OF CHATTERING LORY, ORANGE WEAVER, ETC.

Sir,—In the Poltimore Park Aviaries we have succeeded in breeding a Chattering Lory (*Lorius garrulus*), and an Orange Weaver (*Pyromelana franciscana*), both of which are now flying strongly in the aviary.

We have also bred two hybrid Conures—Yellow-headed (*Conurus jendaya*) × Golden-crowned (*C. aureus*)—these are also doing well.

We have bred a good number of Finches of several kinds, but what interests us most is a nest-full of Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*). (Lord) POLTIMORE.

[Detailed accounts of the above successes will appear in our next issue.—Ed].

AN INTERESTING EPISODE.

Sir,—I have a nest in my aviary in which Tri-colour Mannikins and Bengalese have been sitting for some time, and only last Wednesday, when, hearing young birds calling for food were we made aware that eggs had been laid. The young are now growing fast, have no feathers as yet, but seem quite strong and healthy.

There are cocks and hens of both species in the aviary, so the young may not turn out hybrids, on the other hand they may, and I mention the incident for what it is worth.

Cordon Bleus and Firefinches are incubating, and Zebra Finches have just reared another brood (three on the wing and two still in the nest.

Gold-breasted Waxbills also have another brood in the nest.

My latest acquisitions are Pintail Parrot Finches (Nonpareils), Blue-breasted and Violet-eared Waxbills, which I hope I shall succeed in saving. W. A. BAINBRIDGE.

Thorpe, Surrey,
November 17, 1913.

FROM SCOTLAND TO ORANGE FREE STATE: WONDERFUL FLIGHT OF A SWALLOW.

Dear Sir,—In sending you the attached which I think cannot fail to prove of interest to your readers, I may mention that the readers of "British Birds" Magazine have now placed over 32,000 rings on wild birds of many kinds, and that this is leading to results of great interest and importance in connexion with the study of birds.

Should ringed birds ever come into the hands of your readers

I hope they will notify me at once, stating the name on the ring and the number, as well as the date and place where the bird was found. I will then at once inform them when and where the bird was ringed. Yours faithfully, H. F. WITHERBY, Editor "British Birds."

In August I received a letter from Mr. A. C. Theron dated from "Reit Vallei District Lindley, O.F.S." stating that a Swallow had been captured bearing a ring with my name and address. As Mr. Theron gave neither the number of the ring nor the date of capture I asked him for these particulars and have just received his reply and the ring itself. The ring is number E337, and Mr. Theron informs me that the bird was captured at Reit Vallei on March 16th, 1913, and adds "I do not know when it arrived." This ring was placed on a nestling Swallow by Mr. R. O. Blyth at Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, on July 27th, 1912.

A few months ago an adult Swallow ringed in Staffordshire was recorded as having been captured near Utrecht, Natal, in December, and the present record is from about one hundred and fifty miles west of that place, which is not far in comparison with the total length of the journey.

In writing of the Natal record I expressed surprise that a Swallow breeding in the far west of Europe should migrate so far east in South Africa, but now that Dr. Hartert has shown by his observations in the middle of the Sahara that deserts are not necessarily a bar to the passage of migrating birds, as was formerly supposed, it may perhaps be presumed that these Swallows take a more direct line than one would previously have thought possible.

This second record, taken in conjunction with the first, is extremely valuable, and we are most grateful both to Mr. Blyth who ringed the Swallow and to Mr. Theron who reported it.

Extract from "British Birds," November, 1913. H. F. WITHERBY.

RESULTS, 1913.

Sir,—The following young birds have been fully reared in my aviaries this season:

5 Bronze-wing Pigeons.
8 Diamond Doves.
5 Rosella Parrakeets.
2 Hybrid Weavers.
1 Hybrid Silverbill.
3 Cordon Bleus.
6 Black-cheeked Lovebirds.
4 Californian Quail.
5 Gouldian Finches.
6 Olive Finches.
5 Cuban Finches.

HYBRID CALIFORNIAN × SQUAMATA QUAIL: It will be remembered that a number of this cross were reared in my aviaries in 1912. This year a pair of these hybrids have nested and reared three young ones, thus proving the fertility of the cross. [It will be of general interest if Mr. Shore-Baily will kindly describe the plumage of the original hybrids, also that of their progeny, as soon as the latter are in adult plumage.—ED.]

The following species hatched out young but did not rear the young to fend for themselves.

Alexandrine Parrakeets.
Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons.
Guiana × Blue-winged Lovebirds.

The following nested but did not hatch out:

Bicheno's Finches.
Grey Singing Finches.
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babblers.

Only a very moderate record, I regret to say.

WM. SHORE-BAILY.

Westbury, Wilts,
Nov. 28, 1913.

[Many Aviculturists have fared worse.—ED.]

RE SEXING LINEOLATED PARRAKEETS.

Sir,—In reply to your foot-note as to colour distinctions of the sexes of my Lineolated Parrakeets. I am afraid I am not good at descriptions, but I find it easy to distinguish which is which in my pair: the hen is a little stouter built than her mate and she is olive-green with black spots; the cock is altogether a lighter and richer coloured bird, almost emerald-green, and his spottings and linings are very distinct and clear. (Miss) MARY E. BAKER.

British Bird Calendar.

It is urgently requested that Members from all round the coast will note the movements of birds, more especially in the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes **on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend—**

July—I heard a Quail here in July, and another was *seen* last month. J.S., Leadenham, 7/9/'13.

Sept. 1, 6, and 7.—Dotterel were seen about five miles from here at the beginning of the month, and, the farmer shot two of them and sent them to me—they were excellent! They appeared to be both females: the farmer tells me he has never seen them at this time before, but, always a few on the spring migration in May. My father used to shoot them about here in the old days.

J.S., Leadenham, 7/9/'13.

Nov. 23.—While on a cycle-run from Margate to Broadstairs on the return journey, when near Kingsgate Castle, I saw a Swallow, and spent some time watching its graceful and beautiful flight—so interested was I, that I drew the attention of others to the bird—it was apparently strong and vigorous and in good plumage.

O. M., Margate, 25/11/'13.

The L.C B A. Show at the Horticultural Hall.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

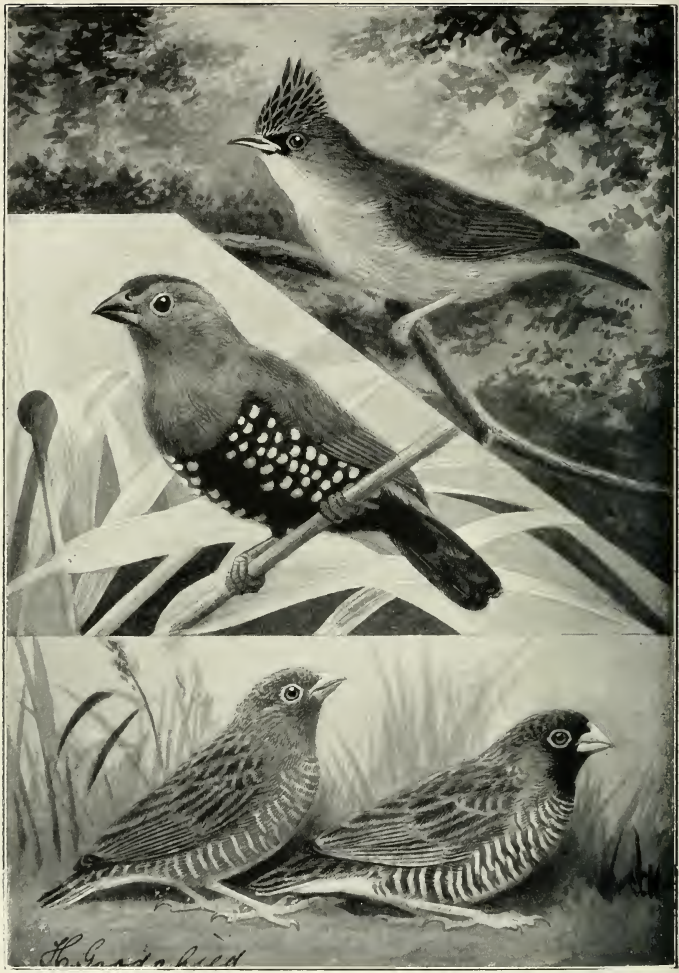
The 25th Annual Show of the L.C.B.A. was held from November 27th—29th, and was an alround success, but, it is with the Foreign Bird section that we are principally concerned, and this contained a record entry of 450.

Most of my readers are aware that shortly after the C.P. Show in February last, the "Foreign Bird Exhibitors' League" was started, having for its object a more extended classification; in the end this society guaranteed thirty classes, and, it is with much pleasure that the writer has to record that the initial venture has proved a great success, and, Mr. A. Silver, the secretary of the League and also a member of the F.B.C., is to be sincerely congratulated of the result of his untiring efforts. The writer also notes with equal pleasure that the major portion of the support given to the League, financial and otherwise, comes from members of the F.B.C., while considerably more than eighty per cent. of the total entries were also from members of the F.B.C., and that nearly all our exhibiting members gave liberal support to the generous classification provided, which was planned and made possible by the F.B.E.L.

The classes for the common or freely imported species were well filled, one class (Common Firefinches, Cordon Bleus, etc.) totalled 41 entries, abundantly testifying to the popularity of these charming pigmies of the bird-world. The rarer Finch and Waxbill classes were also filled with a goodly array of beautiful birds. Even more so complete was the success of the honey-eating, fruit-eating, and insectivorous groups; here were gathered together, Sunbirds, Flycatchers, Redstarts, Babblers, Kingfishers, and many others, of such rarity and dazzling beauty that beggars description. In the Hybrid and Albino Class were gathered together some birds of more than usual interest, including Mr. A. Ezra's renowned Lutino Parrakeets. The Parrot classes were perhaps the least notable, here nothing really new appeared, the rarest probably being the Rev. Raynor's *Pococephali,* Aubry's and Levaillant's Parrots, while the palm for exquisite beauty must go to Miss Clare's Hooded and Queen Alexandra Parrakeets.

In this issue, owing to the exigency of completing indices, it is impossible to review the classes separately, this must be left till our January issue; in this issue we can but briefly pass in review the more notable birds. At the head of these we must place Mr. A. Ezra's Sunbirds; giving a brief description of each.

SOUTHERN MALACHITE SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia famosa*).



Avian Press Process. *From Life.*

Upper Figure—Black-chinned Yuhina.
Middle Figure—Peter's Spotted Firefinch.
Lower Figure—Black-faced Quail Finches ♂ (right) and ♀.

This is one of the largest of the African Sunbirds, and also one of the most beautiful, possessing not only a brilliant and metallic garment and charming song, but also a contour that for elegance and grace is not exceeded by any other member of the bird world. It is also known as the Cape Long-tailed Sunbird. Colour: Rich metallic green; quills black; pectoral tufts golden-yellow; the two slender central tail feathers fully 5in. long, the outer pairs being the shortest, about one inch, the others about 1½in. long; the beak is slender and curved, about 1in. long. The metallic hues are only worn during the breeding season. This bird was very tame and steady and not at all disturbed by the close scrutiny to which it was subjected by an everchanging throng of observers and sightseers; this, I may say, was equally true of the species described below. This bird deservedly took premier honours.

GREATER AMETHYST SUNBIRD *(Cinnyris amethystina)*. This species, in certain lights, looks almost all black, in others it is a flashing jewel scintillating forth metallic purplish reflections; the crown is glistening emerald-green. The song is loud and clear. It is about the size of a Siskin, but of slender and graceful form. A most fascinating cage-bird, beautiful and rare, of a lively and vivacious demeanour. Fit to win anywhere, but all could not be first so had to be content with second honours.

LESSER DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris chalybeus*). Another exquisite gem, which had to be content with third place, really one could rightly term all these equal firsts. It is a smallish species about the size of our Lesser Redpoll, but of graceful and elegant form, a FAIRY SPRITE would be a very fitting designation for it. Sketchy descriptions not easy with these living jewels of the bird-world, as light refraction plays so large a part in the changing hues of their metallic garments. In a subdued light *C. chalybeus* is metallic bronzy green on the head, neck, chin and throat; a broad pectoral band of metallic bronzy-red crosses the breast, separated from the green of the throat by a narrow band of glistening blue. Has a fair song and is very tame and lively.

Mr. Ezra informed me that he kept all his Sunbirds in separate cages, in his bird-room, which is large, and well lighted and kept at an even temperature of about 60° F.

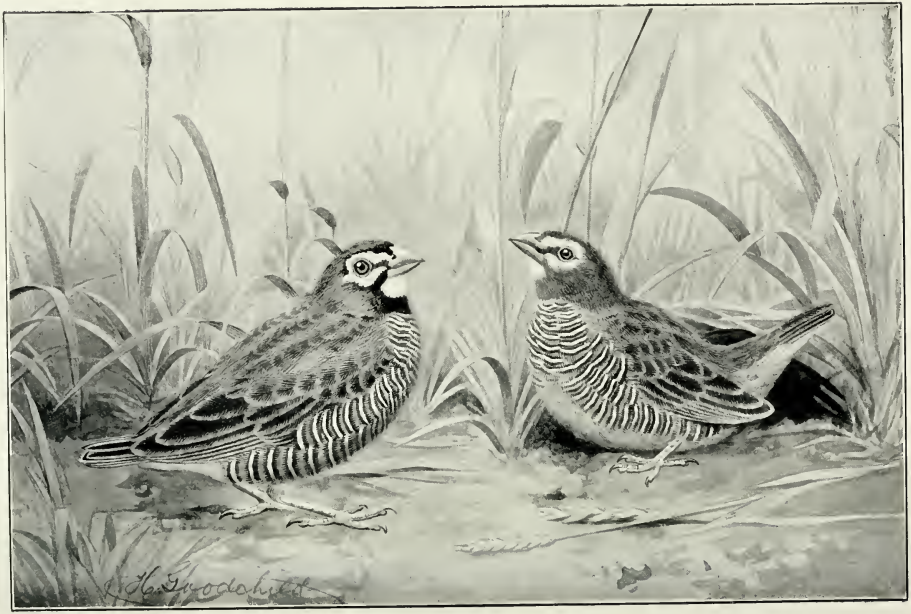
He finds them easy to keep and the African species apparently quite hardy, and states that all are more or less good songsters, very tame, and lively, and are delightful pets. They are fed on syrup—teaspoonful each of Mellin's Food, Nestle's milk, and honey in a teacupful of boiling water; they also get grapes and blight (green fly).

Black-breasted Yellow-backed Sunbird (*Aethopyga saturata*). This, the only specimen of its kind in Great Britain, is an Indian species, smaller than the well-known Amethyst-rumped, but is a more elegant bird and its demeanour is very dainty, gentle, yet confiding and vivacious. Its colouration is not easy to describe, principally black; back maroon-red with a yellow patch near the tail-coverts; crown of head and moustachial streaks vivid metallic violet-blue; the tail is steel-blue with the two central feathers much elongated; beak black, slender and much curved.

Yuccatan Jay (*Lalocitta yuccatensis*): A rare and interesting bird, new to the show-bench, and securing premier honours in its class. This bird was privately imported by Major Horsbrugh, and is a beautiful and interesting bird, uncannily tame from having been hand reared: it is still in immature plumage, blue and black, with yellow bill, legs and feet: these latter change to black and the blue becomes much brighter when fully adult. A handsome and mischievous pet.

Black-chinned Yuhina (*Yuhina nigrimentum*). These were introduced to English aviculture by Major Horsbrugh last May, being collected for him by Mr. Frost. These are charming mites—wee Babblers—very tame and confiding, and make ideal pets either for cage or aviary. While their colouration is not gorgeous—mostly grey, grey-brown, and whitish-grey—they are handsome and striking birds, the pink margins and base of the mandibles, light up the soft colouration of the plumage. Mr. Goodchild's characteristic drawing makes further description superfluous. Character and mannerisms fully discount their somewhat sombre plumage and make them most desirable cage birds. Their quaint vivacious antics, combined with the perky upraising of the crest (in a different position almost for every emotion), are distinctly fetching. They were awarded premier honours in their class.

Peters' Spotted Firefinch *Lagonosticta nivei-*


H. Goodchild

Common Quail Finch (*Ortygospiza polyzona*).

guttata). This beautiful Finch has only been represented on the show-bench by a single individual, exhibited by Mr. L. W. Hawkins, I think in 1903, at the C.P. Show, where it appeared three times in the same year if my memory serves correctly. This beautiful species in form is more like a Melba than a Firefinch, and it is probably more closely allied to *Pytelia* than to the typical Firefinches (*vide Bird Notes*, Vol III., page 191). The present specimen owned by Mr. C T. Maxwell is evidently a new acquisition as the feathering is not yet perfect on the top of the head, but otherwise is in good form and a beautiful bird. I do not know of any other specimen having appeared in the interim, thus it has taken nine years for the second specimen to appear—it is a pity this beautiful Finch is not more freely brought over. Mr. Goodchild's fine drawing gives the plumage pattern very clearly and it will suffice to state that the forehead, top of the head, wings, and back, are warm olive-brown; lores, sides of face, sides of neck, chin, throat, upper breast and tail, fiery, crimson; remainder of underparts dark brown and black, thickly spotted with round white spots; beak silvern-black; legs and feet greyish. The female is brown, spotted with white below; tail and upper breast red, chin fulvous. Its principle range is E. and Cent. Africa. This bird took premier honours in its class.

BLACK-FACED QUAIL FINCH (*Ortygospiza atricollis*). This species is new to aviculture this year, being introduced by our member, Dr. E. Hopkinson, in May last, it is perhaps not so pretty as the Common Quail Finch (*O. polyzona*), but is certainly a handsome species. Description is uncalled for with Mr. Goodchild's careful drawing on our plate, I have also reprinted a plate of *O. polyzona* which appeared in last vol. of "B.N.," for comparison purposes. Dr. Hopkinson kindly presented me with a pair, which have been in my garden aviary since their arrival, and are doing well, but I have been at home but little this year and have had little time to observe them. They are essentially ground birds, and in addition to seed and greenfood, scramble with the other birds at mealworm time, very keen foragers. The pair figured were exhibited by Mr. R. J. Watts, took second prize and were in excellent form.

PIGMY WOODPECKER (*Iyngipicus pygmaeus*): This interesting dwarf makes an ideal cage pet, it is a hen, but a typical Woodpecker, the pattern of the brown, black, and white plumage being of the orthodox pattern. This bird was brought over by Major Perreau, in May last, when it was new to aviculture I believe. It soon passed into Mr. Townsend's posssesion and was fourth in a very strong class. It is only about 5ins. long, but I must refer readers to Major Perreau's notes and Mr. Goodchild's illustration of this species on page 106 of current volume.

INDIAN WHITE-BREASTED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon smyrnensis*). This rare and beautiful Kingfisher was exhibited by Mr. Townsend, I think, two years ago, and it certainly looks none the worse for its two years of captivity. Colour: head, nape and abdomen rich chocolate-brown; back, wings, and tail glistening blue: chin, throat and bar across wings, pure white; bill dark red, feet brighter red.

It does not take all its food from the vicinity of water, but is a land feeder, also, and levys a heavy toll upon ground insects and small reptiles. It was sixth in a strong class.

I purpose at this point leaving the other rare species till our next issue and to note a few of the exhibits in the Hybrid Class.

LUTINO BLOSSOM-HEAD PARRAKEET: This rarity was exhibited by Mr. A. Ezra, and is a clear yellow, but the head is fairly tinged with pink—a most interesting colour variety, gaining second prize, having to yield the premier position to the same owner's well known Lutino Ring-neck.

GREY SINGINGFINCH × CANARY. This interesting hybrid was bred and exhibited by our member Capt. Reeve. Though failing to catch the judge's eye (certainly it was rather wild, having been caught up out of the aviary and forthwith despatched to the Show), to me it was one of the most interesting birds in the class. It was about the size of a Redpoll, slender and shapely. Colour: pure white, with the sides of face and wings brown, most of the feathers being margined with lighter brown; the edges of the outer webs of flight and outer tail-feathers were slightly stained with yellow; a small spot of yellow on each shoulder; beak pinkish horn-colour; legs and feet flesh-colour. Unless very closely examined it appeared merely a white and brown bird. It had a sweet song and Capt. Reeve informs me it is an incessant songster in the aviary.

RED-HEADED FINCH (*Amadina erythrocephala*) x CUT-THROAT (*A. fasciata*): The exhibitor, Miss A. B. Smyth, has bred no less than fourteen of these hybrids this season. In size and plumage they are about intermediate between their respective parents, the male being perhaps the more dominant. In the male hybrids the forehead and fore-crown are suffused with red, and the crimson pectoral band is margined broadly with red and the same colour extends partially over the ear-coverts; throughout the markings and barrings of the Cutthroat are easily distinguished, but both in male and female the creamy spots on the undersurface are very distinct. The hybrids are certainly handsome, bold looking birds. They should be fertile, and I hope our member will attempt to breed from them next season. I believe Mr. H. Bright has also bred several this season, and an exchange should enable a double attempt to be made with unrelated birds—4th prize.

FARSON × LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH: These were an interesting pair, bred and shown by our member, Mr. R. S. de Q. Quincey, but in almost every phase they were intermediate between their parents; beaks dusky red, feet red. —3rd prize.

HOODED SISKIN (*Chrysomitris cucullata*) × CANARY: This hybrid, presumably a hen, was bred and shown by the Rev. J. Paterson. It was somewhat nondescript as to colour, the only trace of the fiery red of the male parent being in the ruddy brown margins to the feathers of the upper surface, in form the Siskin was the more dominant, in size it was intermediate.—6th prize.

GREENFINCH × MEXICAN ROSEFINCH: Exhibited and presumably bred by our member, Mr. L. M. Wade. In appearance and form this hybrid strongly resembles a hen Greenfinch, but above the deep brown of the male parent (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) was intermingled with the colour and markings of the Greenfinch; on the forehead, fore-crown, sides of face, chin and throat, the ruddy hues of the Rosefinch were replaced by pale ruddy-buff.

Blood-stained Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) × Canary: Another unusual cross, bred and shown by our member, Mr. R. Tomlinson. It resembled a large green Canary, but had much of the Rosefinch-brown on the upper surface and the forehead, chin and sides of face were slightly ruddy, giving a hue similar to old gold with a greenish tinge. With the last three of these hybrids their interest was greater than their personal attractions.

In this class was a most interesting Albino Magpie, unfortunately in its wrong-class; it is a British species and should have been entered in the British section.

I have now used up all the time and space at my disposal and must leave notes of such rarities as Small Minivet, Large Niltava, Red-tailed Minla, Indian Fire-caps, the rarer Weavers and Whydahs, and the Parrot section, together with the awards to our next issue.

To be continued.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules (See Page iii of Cover.)

Diamond Sparrow. (Mrs. E. Travis, Stourbridge.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Bird ? (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Tadcaster.) Cause of death, heart failure consequent on convulsions.

Red-headed Gouldian Finch (♂) and Bengalese. (Harvey C. Curry, Littlehampton.) Both died from pneumonia.

Yellow-winged Sugar Bird. (R. E. Simpson, Leeds.) No doubt died from exhaustion following on excitment.

Ruficauda Finch. (♂). (Rev. G. H. Raynor, Hazeleigh Rectory Maldon.) I found no evidence of phosphorus, but the cause of death was pneumonia.

(W. A. Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey.) The four birds died from pneumonia. Excitement during the time birds are being caught or travelling in the train often. in inclement weather lower their vitality that they develop pneumonia. I have observed this frequently in my own birds.

Weaver. (G. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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Fillmer, H. R. (*Founder*), Brendon, 22, Harrington Road, Brighton.

Adams, A. W., 118 Northampton Road, Market Harborough. (May, 1912).
Alderson, Miss R., Park House, Worksop. (March, 1909).
Allan, J. W., Bondgate, Alnwick. (April, 1911).
Almond, The Rev. F., Branxholme House, Lincoln Road, Peterborough. (Feb., 1906).
Amsler, Dr. Maurice, High Street, Eton, Windsor. (March, 1909).
Andrews, F. J., Gordon House, Woodbridge. (Dec., 1911).
Anningson. Mrs., Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge. Dec., (1910).
Appleby K. A., Post Office of India, Amritsar, Punjab, India. (Oct., 1910).
Armstein, Mark, 30, Grand Parade, Cork. (March, 1906).
Arrighi, L. J., Harrison View, Watson Crescent, Edinburgh. (Mar., 1908).
Astley, H. D., M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Benham Valence, Speen, Newbury, Berks. (Dec., 1909).
Attwell, Harold E., Cassia Grove, Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. (March, 1910).
Austin, W. E., Wandsworth Public Libraries, Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, London, S.W. (April, 1909).
Baddeley, A., 21 Derby Street, Hulme, Manchester. (July, 1912).
Baily, W. Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).
Bainbridge, W. A., Hazlewood, Thorpe, Chertsey. (Sept., 1912).
Baker, Miss M. E., The Elms, Mount Sorrel, Loughborough. (Sept., 1902).
Bamford, Wm., The Coppice, Werneth, Oldham. (June, 1904).
Bampfylde, The Hon. Mrs., Court Hall, North Molton, North Devon. (July, 1911).
Barlow,-Massicks, Mrs. C., The Mount, Rotherham. (Nov., 1911).
Barnaby Miss Alison, Oak Lodge, Bitterne, Southampton. (Aug., 1912).
Barros Americo de, 63 rua Victoria, Sao-Paulo, Brazil. (June, 1912).
Baxby, William, 6, Chesterfield Road, Dronfield, Sheffield. (June, 1910).
Beaty, S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Manchester. (March, 1908).

Beazor, Rev. J. T. A., Lovell, 60 Upgate, Louth, Lincs. (April, 1911).

Beebe, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).

Bliss, H. E., c/o T. Estcourt, Rosemead, Cape Colony, S. Africa. (Jan., 1903).

Boscawen, The Hon. Vere D., 2, St. James' Square, London, S.W. (January, 1911).

Bonnick, Mrs., Belmont, East Hoathly, Halland, Sussex. (Nov., 1911).

Botting, H., Mountside, Harrow Road, Dorking. (Dec., 1908).

Bourke, Hon. Gwendolen, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, Maidenhead, and 75 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W. (Dec., 1909).

Bousfield, Miss M., Avon Court, Southborne Road, Bournemouth. (Jan., 1908).

Boyd, Harold, Box 374, Thelowna, Brit. Columbia, Canada. (April, 1903).

Branfoot, B., 41, Cromwell Road, Grimsby. (Nov., 1912).

Bright, R. E., Sunnybank, Coggeshall, Essex. (March, 1910).

Bright Herbert, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool. (Oct., 1911).

Bromwich, Miss Vera. (Present address unknown).

Brook, E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan. (Mar., 1908).

Brotherston, G. W., 23, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh. (August, 1909).

Brown, Mrs. C., Seton Lodge, Beacon Road, Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym., Bristol. (May, 1910).

Browning, W. H., 16, Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1910).

Browne Capt., A. E., Imperial Hotel, Rawal Pindi, Punjab, India. (March, 1912).

Bruce, Miss A., 42, Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London, W. (Mar., 1909).

Bufton, Reginald P., Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells. (January, 1913).

Bull, F.W., Bude, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey. (June, 1912).

Bush, W., The Art Schools, Dock Street, Newport, Mon. May, 1909).

Camps, H. T. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Ely. (Orig. Mem.).

Capern, F., Avenue House, Cotham Park, Bristol. (October, 1907).

Carr, J. T., Blythewood, Deramere Drive, Malone Road, Belfast (Sept., 1912).

Cartwright, Mrs. E., Bretton Lodge, Wakefield. (January, 1912).

Cecil, Lord William, 23, Queen's Gate Gardens, London, S.W. (November, 1909).

Chaplin E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell, Ware. (Sept., 1903).

Chawner, Miss E. F., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).

Cheetham J., The Hawthorns, Brighouse. (October, 1908).

Christie, Mrs. G., Newton House, Elgin. (January, 1913).

Clare, Miss Lydia, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W. (March, 1910).

Clarke, S., Inces, Scaynes Hill, Hayward's Heath. (August, 1911).

Clarke, Leigh, Tower Hirst, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. (Feb., 1911).

Clifton. Lord, Cobham Hall, Gravesend. (October, 1905).

Cochrane, Thos., Linden Lea, Newtown St. Boswells, Roxburghshire. (August, 1909).

Connell, Mrs. Knatchbull, The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants. (July, 1912).

Conway-Gordon, Miss V., Longley House, Rochester. (October, 1906).

Constable, Rev. W. J., Uppingham. (February, 1912).

Cook, W., 24, Hyde Park Gardens, London, W. (March, 1909).

Corbet, Sir R. J., Bt., Acton Reynold, Shrewsbury. (April, 1911).

Crisp, R. L., 50, Elm Park Road, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Feb., 1909).

Croker, Chas. E., Burrow Inche, Lower Bourne, Farnham. (Oct., 1911).

Cronkshaw, J., 193, Manchester Street, Accrington. (November, 1901).

Croysdale, Mrs. B., Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames. (Jan., 1908).

Curry, H. L., Lambolle Lodge, Littlehampton. (July, 1912).

Curzon, J. W., Temperance Hotel, opp. Central Station. Lowestoft. (February, 1912).

Cushny, Charles, c.o. Messrs. Neish, Howell and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, St. Paul's, E.C. (Orig. Mem.).

Darrell. Dr. H. W., Adelaide House, All Saints Green, Norwich. (September, 1908).

Davidson, Mrs., Yew Tree Cottage, Bitterne, Southampton. (April, 1911).

Dean, H. S., The Limes, Clifton Street, Wolverhampton. (March, 1911).

De Lissa, S., Bittacy House, Mill Hill, London, N.W. (July, 1912).

Dennis, Mrs. Harold, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham. (Jan., 1904).

Dewar. D., I.C.S., F.Z.S., Pilibhit, U.P., India.

Dewar, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.)

De Yarburgh-Bateson, The Hon. Lilla, Heslington, York. (June 1903).

Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, Edinburgh. (April, 1906).

Doherty, Mrs. B., Vernon House, Weston, Bath. (October, 1909).

Donnell, O. O., Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, Ipswich. (Aug., 19120.

Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire. (Nov., 1907).

Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywalter Park, Ballywalter, co. Down. (November, 1901).

Dutton, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, Bibury Vicarage, Fairford, Glos. (May. 1906).

Dyott, R. A., Freeford, Lichfield. (Nov., 1912).

Ebrill, Wm., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick. (April, 1906).

Eccles, Miss A. S., The Glade, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey. (Jan., 1912).

Edmunds, W., Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Wareham. (Nov. 1909).

Elms, E. F. M., Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey, (June, 1910).

Ezra, A., 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London. (Jan. 1911).

Ezra, D., 3, Kyd Street, Calcutta, India. (Aug., 1912).

Fasey, William, R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook, N.E. (Jan., 1903).

Faux, E R., Colmer, Cator Road, Sydenham, London, S. E. (Oct., 1911).

Ferrar, B.B., M.D., F.Z.S., Superintendent, The Royal Zoological Society's Gardens, Phœnix Park, Dublin. (Dec., 1912).

Fisher, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham. (May, 1908).

Fisher-Rowe, H. M., St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants., (Jan., 1911).

Flannery, M. J., Barrack Street, Nenagh. (Jan., 1909).

Fletcher, Geo, 19 Peveral Road, Sheffield. (April, 1911).

Flower, Capt., S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Gizeh, Egypt. (March, 1909).

Flower, Mrs. Stanley, Longfield, Tring, Herts. (July, 1910).

Fockelmann, Herr August, Handels-Tierpark, Hamburg-Grossborstel, Niendorferweg. (Dec., 1912).

Fordred, Ernest E., Wychmont, Olton, Acocks Green, Birmingham. (Jan., 1913).

Foster, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (Jan., 1909).

Foster, William Hill, 164, Portland Street, Southport. (Nov., 1901).

Freeland, G. Scott, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge. (July, 1912).

Frostick J., 137 Endlesham Road, Balham, London, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

Galloway, Mrs. E., Fernville, Fortis Green Road, East Finchley, London, N. (Jan., 1908).

Galloway, P. F. M., Durban, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading. (Nov., 1907).

Gardiner, Mrs. Stanley, Whitethorn, Barton Road, Cambridge. (Jan., 1913).

Gerrard, John, M.B.O.U., Worsley, Manchester. (June, 1905).

Gloyns, Horace, R., Kew Cottage, Holmesdale Road, Hampton Wick, Kingston-on-Thames. (Oct., 1912).

Godry, Edouard, LeCoteau, Lantheuil par Creully (Calvados), France. (Jan., 1912).
Goodacre, Hugh, Ullesthorpe, Lutterworth. (May, 1912).
Goodchild, H., M.B.O.U., 66, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W. (July, 1903).
Goodchild, J. Clare, Suffolk. (Jan., 1913).
Goodfellow, W., The Poplars, Kettering. (October, 1908).
Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (Dec., 1902).
Gosse, Dr. Philip, M.B.O.U., Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (April, 1910).
Gott, Mrs., F., Meetwood Garth, Leeds. (Nov., 1912).
Gourlay, H., Kempshott Park, Basingstoke. (November, 1907).
Graham, John, Rainbow Hotel, Kendal (February, 1911).
Gray. H., M.R.C.V.S.,. (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, London, W. (May, 1906).
Greeven, Miss M., 29 Queensborough Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W. (October, 1907).
Grossmith, J. L., The Grange, Bickley, Kent. (Jan., 1913).
Haggie G. E., Bruncombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford. (Feb., 1910).
Hahn, Countess, C. V., 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, London; S.W. (Aug., 1910).
Hall, Miss A. F., 2 Park Place Villas, Paddington, London, W., and Denholme, Hayling Island, Havant. (Sept., 1911).
Hall Chilton B., Pedrogosa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. (April, 1911).
Hansell, Frank, Bank House, Granton Road, Edinburgh. (Nov., 1911).
Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Government Road, Nairobi, Brit. E. Africa. (October, 1907).
Harris, Chas., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, N.E. (April, 1910).
Harrison, J. H., The Crescent, Hastings Place, Lytham. (Dec., 1901).
Hartley, Mrs. E. A., St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings. (Sept., 1907).
Harvey, Lady, Langley Park, Slough. (June, 1908).
Hatchell, D. G., Grosvenor Club, Piccadilly, London, W. (Dec., 1911).
Hawke, The Hon. M. C., Wighill Park, Tadcaster. (Nov., 1902).
Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Member.
Hebb, T., Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, (Aug., 1912).
Henderson, Mrs. W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Nov., 1908).
Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, (March, 1907).
Hetley, Dr. Henry, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E. (Jan., 1908).
Hewitt F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, Grimsby, (April, 1909).

Hincks, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton, Somerset. (Dec., 1904).

Hodkin, Mrs., Sedbergh House, Kew Green, Surrey. (Feb., 1908).

Hoffmann, R., Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (Mar., 1912).

Holden, Ralph A., F.Z.S., 5, John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C., and Harpenden, Herts. (July, 1911).

Hollins, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston. (Feb., 1906).

Hollins, B., 9, George Street, Hull. (May, 1903).

Holmes, Thomas, 46, Aglionby Street, Carlisle. (Jan., 1911).

Hopkinson, Emilius, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon., Bathurst; Gambia; West Africa. (Oct., 1901).

Horsbrugh, Major, B.R., 11, Pembroke Square, Kensington, London; W. (Oct., 1909).

Horton, L. W., Hill House, Compton, Wolverhampton. (Sept., 1902)

Houlton, Charles, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helen's, (Nov., 1901).

Howe, Frank, 54, Thomas Street, Wellingborough. (Feb., 1902).

Hubbard, Mrs. D. L., Casa Sta. Monica, Bordighera, Italy. (Jan., 1905).

Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

Humphrys, Russell, Bryn Court, Woldingham, Caterham Valley, Surrey. (July, 1902).

Isaac, Chas., Somerton, Bath Road, Slough. (March, 1911).

Jamrach, A. E., 180, St. George's Street, London, E. (July, 1909).

Johnson, Miss L. Sturton, Orotava House, Ore, Hastings. (Sept., 1910).

Johnson, Major, F., Melrose House, Wilberry Road, Hove, Brighton.

Johnson, H. V., 18 Chambres Road, Southport. (Nov., 1908). (Aug., 1912).

Kennedy, Lt., G., c./o. Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).

Kenworthy, J. M., Meadowcroft, Windermere. (June, 1909).

King, Frank, High Holme Nurseries, Louth, Lincs. (March, 1909).

Kite, E. Bagshot, Haines Hill House, Taunton. (Feb., 1912).

Knobel, Miss E. Maud, 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (Dec., 1911).

Knowles, Mrs. M., Ednaston Lodge, Derby. (January, 1913).

Komyakoff, Alexis, Novinsky boulevard 109, Moscow, Russia. (Dec., 1912).

Lamb, Mrs., The Limes, Worting, Nr. Basingstoke. (March, 1912).

Lamb, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Malden, Surrey. (May, 1906).

Lee, Mrs. E. D., Hartwell House, Aylesbury. (Sept., 1910).

Legh de Legh, Dr. H., Redcar. (April, 1911).

Leighton, D., 189, Croxted Road, Dulwich, London, S.E. (July, 1912).

Lewis, J., Corstorphine, Ryde. (June, 1908).

Little, Miss C. Rosa, Baronshalt, The Barons, East Twickenham. Twickenham. (Nov., 1902).

Littledale, Lieut., Lydd, Kent. (January, 1913).

Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (Feb., 1909).

Loode, A. C., 342, West Main Street, Lexington, Fayette, Co. Ky., U.S.A. (January, 1911).

Lowe, A. J. C., 9 Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. (January, 1912).

Lythgoe, G. W. F., 173, Clifton St., Old Trafford, Manchester. (Nov., 1906).

Mace, J., 76 Blonk Street, Sheffield. (Feb., 1911).

McDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., L.L.S., 19, Harley Street, London, W. (Jan., 1903).

Mc Donald, Miss, Meadow Bank, Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea. (April, 1911).

McIntyre, Mrs. J., Muchall, Wolverhampton. (February, 1911).

McLaren, The Hon. Mrs. Morrison, Parkfield, Park Lane, Southwick, Brighton. (November, 1906).

Malden, Countess Eveline, Wragmore, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard. (Aug., 1909).

Mallett, E. A., M.A., Rose Villa, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley. (September, 1911).

Mannering, R., 117, Elsenham Street, Southfields, Wandsworth, Lon-S.W. (February, 1912).

Mappin, Stanley, 12, Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London, S.W. (February, 1911).

Marmont, W. B., The Firs, Amberley, Stroud, Glos. (October, 1908).

Marriner, J. Sumner, Woodbank, Denton, Ben Rhydding, Leeds. (October, 1909).

Marshall, Mrs., Marrowells, Walton-on-Thames. (April, 1911).

Master, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov., 1903).

Matthews, Mrs. Jas. E., 18, Stanhope Road, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, London, N. (March, 1912).

Maxwell-Jackson, Mrs. M., Cowhill, Harrogate. (January, 1913).

Maxwell C. T., 1 Shardcroft Aven, Herne Hill, S.E. (Dec., 1908).

Meadows, J. C. W., 17, Cardiff Road, Luton. (Feb., 1908).

Meakin, H., 16, Shaftesbury Road, Luton. (January, 1913).

Miller, Mrs. K. Leslie, 27 Belgrave Road, London, S.W. (Jan., 1904).

Millsum, O., Everberg, par Cortenberg, Brabant, Belgium. (July, 1907).

Mitchell, H., Haskells, Lyndhurst, Hants. (Sept., 1903).

Money, L. G. Chiozza, M.P., Tyhurst, Chaldon, Caterham Valley, Surrey. (October, 1910).

Montague, G. R., 63, Croxted Road, Dulwich, S.E. (February, 1909).

Montgomery, W. O., Rubana, Burton Road, Hornsea, Hull. (Jan. 1913).

Morgan, Mrs. E. C., 17, York House, Church Street, Kensington, London, W. (January, 1913).

Morris, A., Broadway Chambers, Ilford. (February, 1911).

Mortimer, Mrs., Wigmore, Holmwood, Dorking. (Orig. Mem.).

Mortimer, Miss, Wigmore, Holmwood, Dorking. (November, 1908).

Mundy, Miss Sybil, Shipley, Hall, Derby. (Aug., 1911).

Newley, R. A., 24, Stockwell Green, London, S.W. (Dec., 1902).

Newman, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

Nicolson, Thos. G., F.Z.S., Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames. (June, 1910).

Oakey, W., 34, High Street, Leicester. (Orig. Mem.).

Oberholser, Harry, C., 1,444, Fairmont Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (Dec., 1903)..

O'Neil. Arthur, 25, Eldred Street, Carlisle. (Jan. , 1911).

O'Reilly, Nicholas S., 144, Eastern Road, Kent Town, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.).

Owen, P., 19, St. Loo Mansions, Chelsea, London, S.W. (March 1912).

Page, W. T., F.Z.S., (*Hon. Editor*), Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey. (May, 1905).

Painter, V. Kenyon, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (Nov., 1910).

Partridge, Mrs., Beaufort, Winchester Road, Worthing. (December, 1905).

Paterson, Rev. J. Mapletoft, St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, (Nov., 1908).

Pauwels, Robert, E., Everberg par Cortenberg, Brabant, Belgium. (Sept., 1909).

Pennant, Lady Edith Douglas, Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).

Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903).

Perreau, Major., G. A., F.Z.S., 2-4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjaub ,India. (Dec., 1903).

Perreau, Mrs. R. A. D., 11, Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh. (September, 1908).

Perring, C. S. R., 1, Walpole Road, Twickenham. (Oct., 1902).

Phair, H. J., Broad Street, Alresford. (January, 1912).

Pickard, H. K., 298, West End Lane, Kilburn, London, N.W. (October, 1901).

Pickles, W. H., Stonyhurst, Morecambe, Lancs. (May, 1904).

Pike, L. G., F.Z.S., King Barrow, Wareham. (December, 1910).

Pilkington, Lady Kathleen, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (Sept., 1908).

Pithie, Miss Dorothy, Bellevue, Lymington. (September, 1911).

Poltimore, Lady, Poltimore Park, Exeter. (Aug., 1911).

Pond. Mrs. T., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (Nov., 1902).

Puck, Otto, Darenth Lodge, Chingford, N.E. (May, 1912).

Quait, Mrs. Wortley, St. Brannock's, Mundesley, Yorks. (March, 1912).

Quincy, R. de Quincy, Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (Aug., 1910).

Rattigan, G. E., Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. (March. 1909).

Raven, W. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham, (Oct., 1909).

Raynor, Rev. G. H., Hazleigh Rectory, Maldon. (Dec., 1909).

Read, Mrs. W. H., Bury Rectory, Huntingdon. (January, 1911).

Reeve, Capt. J. S., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).

Restall, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (Nov., 1903).

Rice, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie. (July, 1902).

Robbins, H., 37, New Oxford Street, London, W. (October, 1908).

Roberts, Mrs. G. L., Woogate, Maze Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea. (Jan., 1911).

Robson, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (Dec., 1909).

Roehl, C., 400, Edgware Road, London, W. (Sept., 1911).

Rogers, W.. T., Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood. (Oct., 1907).

Rogerson, Mrs., Fleurville, Cheltenham. (Feb., 1903).

Rotch, F. M., Park House, Park Road, Teddington. (Orig. Mem.)

Roth, Fred G. R., Sherwood, Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A. (Nov. 1908).

Rothwell, James, E., Sewell Avenue, Brooklyn, Mass., U.S.A. (Feb., 1911).

Routh, Col. J. J., 2, Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham. (Jan., 1912).

Row. C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk. (Dec., 1905.)

Rumsey, Lacy, 23, Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (Oct., 1911).

Rundle, Rev. H., Red House, Coningsby, Lincoln. (July, 1912).

Rutherford, Miss Susan, 14, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (Jan., (1913).

Savage, A., 16, Rue Gilbert, 16, Rouen, France.(Dec., 1905).

Scholes, Mrs., Woodcote, Ottery St. Mary, Devon. (Jan., 1913).

Scott, B. Hamilton, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).

Scott, J. Easton, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).

Scott Mrs. J. Easton, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).

Sellars, P. H., 81, Hyndland Street, Partick, Glasgow. (January, 1911).

Sich, H. L., c.o. Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, Park Lodge, East Hoathly, Halland, Sussex, and Corney House, Chiswick, W. (June, 1908).

Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Manchester. (February, 1908).

Sills, Arthur, 260, Loughborough Road, Leicester. (Jan., 1911).

Silver Allen, 303, High Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (Orig. Mem.).

Simpson, R. E., 9, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds. (Dec., 1907).

Sladden, J. H., 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft. (Oct., 1908).

Smith-Ryland, Mrs., Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).

Smith, W., 12, Claremont Road, Redruth. (May, 1910).

Smith, W. S., 24, Jubilee Street, Luton. (December, 1908).

Smith. J., Woodlands, Kendal.

Smyth, Miss Alfreda, 40, Davenport Road, Catford, London, S.E. (Jan., 1911).

Snarey, H., 21, Leamington Road, Blackburn. (March, 1911).

Somers, Frank, M.R.C.V.S., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (Jan., 1907).

Southcombe, S. L., Highlands, Ash, Martock, Somerset. (Sept., 1910).

Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (Feb., 1908).

Sproston, Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich. (Jan., 1911).

Stead, Edgar, Strowan, Christchurch, New Zealand. (Sept., 1911).

Sterckmans, Dr. C., 28, Rue del la Station, Louvain, Belgium. (August, 1910).

Stocker, J. M. (Present address unknown). (Nov., 1908).

Stoney, Mrs. Stella, 21 Mount Carmel Chambers, Duke's Lane, Kensington, London, W. (August, 1912).

Storey. Mrs. A., Summer Hill, Tarporley, Cheshire. (Nov., 1912).

Street, E., The Poplars, Oatwoods, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909).

Strickland, E. A., 16, Alma Road, Windsor. (May, 1912).

Stuart-Wortley, Mrs., Dock House, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (Oct., 1910).

Sykes. John, 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh. (Jan., 1912).

Suffolk, and Berkshire, Countess of, Charlton Park, Malmesbury. (Feb., 1909).

Suggitt, R., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (Dec., (1903).

Sutcliffe, Albert, Field House, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

Sutton. J. Pelham, Melbourne Lodge, Carlton Road, Putney, London, S.W. (May, 1910).

Swayne, Henry A., 29, Percy Place, Dublin. (Jan., 1913).

Swaysland, W., 47, Queen's Road, Brighton, (Orig. Mem.).

Tavistock The Marquis of, Woburn Abbey, Woburn. Jan., 1913).

Temple, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Windsor. (Dec., 1908).

Teschemaker, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth. (Mar., 1907).

Thomasset B.C., F.Z.S., The Manor House, Ashmansworth, Newbury. (July, 1912).

Thompson, M., 4, William Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand. (June, 1911).

Thorburn, Miss C. W., 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

Thorpe, Mrs., 31, Castle Road, West Kensington, London, W. (Jan., 1911).

Thwaites, Dr. Gilbert B., 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton. (May, 1910).

Tidey, J. W., Oakdene, Victoria Road, Worthing. (Jan., 1912).

Tilley, G. D. F., New York, Z.S., Darien, Connecticut, U.S.A. (Jan., 1913).

Tomassi Baldelli, La Countessa G., 4, Via Silvio, Pelico, Florence, Italy. (Dec., 1901).

Townsend, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Orig. Member).

Toye, Mrs. M., Stanhope, Bideford. (Nov., 1901).

Travers, Miss Annette, Kingcraigee, Courtmacsherry, co. Cork. (Dec., 1903).

Treloar, Sir Wm., Bart., Grange Mount, Norwood, S.E. (June, 1909).

Turner-*Turner*, Mrs., Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (Nov., 1910).

Tyson, C. R., 169, Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Feb., 1911).

Valentine, E., 7, Highfield, Workington. (Dec., 1911).

Villiers, Viscountess, C., Antwick's Manor, Letcombe Regis, Wantage. (Nov., 1912).

Vollmar, P., 8, George Street, Minories, London, E.C. (Feb., 1909).

Waddell Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (Feb., 1909).

Wait Miss L. M. St. A., 12, Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, London, S.W. (Dec., 1907).

Walker A., M.A., B.Sc., M.D., The Chestnuts, Westbourne Grove, Sheffield. (Dec., 1907).

Walsh, J., 159, Duke's Brow, Blackburn. (Dec., 1908).

Walsh, Jeffrey, Pheasant Aviaries, Penny Street, Blackburn. (Oct., 1910).

Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset, Carrowden Castle, Donaghadee, co. Down. (Oct., 1905).

Wardale, H., Willington House, Willington Quay, Northumberland. (May, 1903).

Waren-Williams, H. E., Woodcote Lodge, Wallington, Surrey. (Jan., 1911).

Watson S., 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston. (Sept., 1910).

Watts, Rudolph, Wilmar, Wiggenhall Road, Watford. (Nov., 1906).

Webb, Miss Katherine, 35, Barton Road, Cambridge. (July, 1909).

Webster, Lady, Powdermill House, Battle, Sussex. (Feb., 1911).

Weir, J., Oak Cottage, Ashley, New Milton, Hants. (Dec., 1912).

Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead. (Sept., 1907).

WESTON, G. E., 42 Lewisham Road, Dartmouth Park, London, N.W. (July, 1908).

WETHEY, Mrs. R. E., Leholm, Redcar. (July, 1911).

WHISTLER, Hugh, I. P., Battle, Sussex. (Jan., 1913).

WHITMORE, Sydney, 3, Holly Hill, Hampstead, London, N.W. (Sept., 1911).

WILLFORD, Henry (*Hon. Photographer*), Uplands View, Havenstreet, Ryde. (July, 1908).

WILLFORD Neville, Woodside, Isabel Road, Hornchurch, Romford. (July, 1908).

WILLIAMS, Mrs. C. H., Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter. (Jan., 1911).

WILLIAMS, Mrs. Ffrench, 6, Willington Square, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

WILLIAMS, Mrs. Howard, Oatlands, Sunbridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent. (June, 1910).

WILLIAMS, Sydney, F.Z.S., (*Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary*), Holland Lodge, Edmonton, London, N. (Oct., 1910).

WILSON, Miss F. M., 34, Charrington Street, Oakley Square, London, N.W. (March, 1906).

WILSON, T.N., M.A., Oak Lodge, Bitterne, Southampton. (Jan., 1902).

WINCHELSEA and NOTTINGHAM The Countess of, Haverholme Priory, Sleaford. (June, 1903).

WIMBLE, Chas., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (Dec., 1909)

WOOD, Mrs. Cyril, 27, Avenue Montjoie, Meele, Brussels. (Jan., 1912).

WOOD, L. W., 36, Billing Street, Northampton. (April, 1911).

WORKMAN, W. H., M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast. (June. 1912).

WRIGHT, G. B., c/o, G. Heaton, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham. (June, 1908).

WRIGHT, F. H., Westholme, Sandal, Wakefield. (Jan., 1911).

WRIGHT, H., Newcombe, L.L.B., Ravenshill, Huddersfield. (Jan., 1911).

WROTTESLEY, The Hon. Walter B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Staplecross, Nr. Hawkhurst. (Dec., 1902).

YEALLAND, James, Havenstreet, Ryde. (Sept., 1909).

YEOMAN, Mrs. Pattison, The Close, Brompton, Northallerton, Yorks. (April, 1910).

YOUNG, Arthur E., Osborne Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Oct., 1911).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly informed of any errors in the above list.

Associates.

Acutt, J., Goodrest, Manor Road, New Milton, Hants. (July, 1907).
Brickwood Miss E., 3, Ladies' Lodge, Dunstable, Beds. (May, 1907).
Halliday, Charles, Bridge Street, Banbridge. (June, 1903).
Hentsch, W. J.., Douglas Villa, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey. (Jan., 1904).
Hyde, and Co., Ltd., R., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E. (May, 1904).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above List.

RULES.

1. The objects of "The Foreign Bird Club" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members and associates in the keeping, breeding, and exhibiting of Foreign Birds, and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members and associates. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 10s. Every associate shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 5s. Associates shall have such of the privileges of the Members as the Council shall from time to time direct. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's or associate's subscriptions shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a Member or Associate of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member, or associate accordingly, but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.

3. New members shall be proposed in writing by a member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more members shall lodge with eithe of the Secretaries objections to any candidate, he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors. Associates desirous to become members shall go through the same form of election as other candidates, but shall not pay an entrance fee.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, and a Council of Eighteen members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council. Three Members of the Council retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th of November and the 5th of December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each member of the Club or or about the 15th of November a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each member shall make a (X) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th of December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each candidate, and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council: and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a member of the Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a Committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between members or associates, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give to the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto

within fourteen days the proposed alterations for addition shall be submitted to the votes of the members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any member or associate at any time.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a candidate at any election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time other than the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to appoint any member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

Notices to Members.

Late Issue: We regret the late appearance of this issue, but, owing to Indices and Roll—a little delay in the appearance of December and January issues is unavoidable.

The Magazine: We again urge members to send in copy without written request. It will make the task of the Hon. Editor much lighter if he has copy in ahead, a more varied issue can be given, and the respective issue turned out in better form if a rush for press can be avoided. We again urge upon our members the more serious side of aviculture, the keeping of a Log-book and the careful observance of all details, concerning nesting and other episodes occurring in their aviaries; while we are anxious that the section of our Magazine dealing with Foreign species shall not grow less, we do want more accounts of such British species as our members keep in their aviaries, and that many will contribute notes and observations to the British Bird Calendar, varying of course with the season —movements, rare arrivals, nesting notes, etc.—also we solicit articles on the *Psittacidæ* and *Gallinæ*. If all co-operate the volume just commenced will be equal to, if not ahead of, its predecessors.

Our Roll: For the benefit of new members, we repeat the notice from December issue: "After serving the Club for six years as Hon. Editor, Mr. Page has again accepted office for another period of three years, and, *he asks of the members an even increased support to that given him in the past, in all sections of the work*; that if possible the Magazine may retain its present standing in every particular. He specially desires the first year of another term may be marked by the ingathering of *at least* 100 *New Members*, and he is convinced that if a *united and universal effort* be made, we shall more than achieve our aim.—Will each Member assist?" There is no time so auspicious as the commencement of a new volume to secure new members. Specimen copies of the Magazine will be sent to any address sent in, in the name of the member sending in such, and the Hon. Business Secretary, Mr. S. Williams will send supplies of the leaflet "Objects of the Club" to any member willing to pass them on to avicultural friends and acquaintances.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donation:—

	£	s.	d.
Barnaby, Miss Alison (overpaid subscription)	0	0	6
Rowe, H. M. Fisher	0	10	0
Stoney, Mrs. Stella	0	2	6
Willford, H. (to cover 1912 postage) ...	2	0	0
Wilson, Miss F. M.	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

Marquis of Tavistock, Wooburn Abbey, Beds.
B. B. Ferrar, M.D., F.Z.S., Superintendent, The Royal Zoological Society's Gardens, Phœnix Park, Dublin.
J. L. Grossmith, The Grange, Bickley, Kent.
August Fockelmann, Handels-Tierpark, Hamburg-Grossborstel, Niendorferweg.
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Mrs. Stanley Gardiner, "Whitethorn," Barton Road, Cambridge.
Mrs. E. C. Morgan, 17, York House, Church-street, Kensington, London, W.
W. O. Montgomery, Rubana, Burton Road, Hornsea, Yorks.
J. Weir, Oak Cottage, Ashley, New Milton, Hants.
Lieut. F. M. Littledale, Lydd, Kent.
G. D. Tilley, F. (N.Y.) Z.S., Darien, Connecticut, U.S.A.
Mrs. M. Knowles, Ednaston Lodge, Nr. Derby.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Hugh Whistler, I.P., Battle, Sussex.
By Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley.
Mrs. M. Maxwell-Jackson, Cowhill, Harrogate, Yorks.
By the Hon. Editor.
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By Miss E. G. R. Peddie Waddell.

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By Mrs. E. H. Hartley.
J. Goodchild, Clare, Suffolk. *By C. H. Row.*
Ernest E. Fordred, Wychmont, Olton, Acock's Green, Birmingham.
By S. Williams, F.Z.S.
Alexis Komyakoff, Novinsky Boulevard 109, Moscow, Russia.
By the Hon. Editor.
H. Meakin, 16, Shaftesbury Road, Luton, Beds.
By J. C. W. Meadows.
E. Hattersley, 16 Thornfield Road, Far, Headingley, Leeds.
By R. E. Simpson.
Reginald P. Bufton, Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells.
By S. Williams, F.Z.S.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to the following Show. Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

L. and P.O.S. National Show Crystal Palace, February 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th. Classification for ten Classes for Foreign Birds. Two Silver Medals and London Silver Cup for competition. Judges: Messrs. H. T. Camps, and W. Swaysland. Entries close January 25th. Schedules from Mr. J. W. Ramsden, 11, Josephine Avenue. Brixton, London, S.W.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

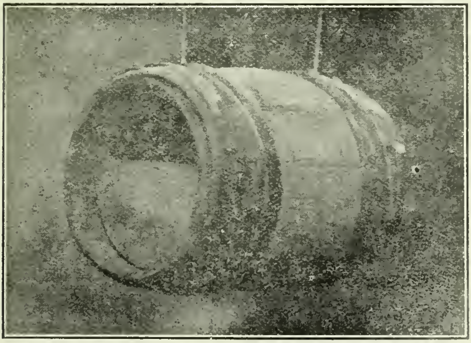
Apply to The Publisher, Market Place, Ashbourne.

MRS. MILLER wishes to recommend a Man, employed by her late husband for 15 years, for any general position or chaffeur. He is an ex-R.H.A., an expert driver, accustomed to electric lighting, and able to execute minor repairs, and also a trained and licensed motor-car driver.—Apply, 27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.

WANTED: Cock Silver-eared Mesia; Hen Gold-fronted Bulbul; Cock Tricolour Tanager; Hen Blue Sugar Bird; Hen Yellow-winged Sugar Bird.—Freeland, Hill Rise, Tonbridge, Kent.

WANTED: Parrot Finch in exchange for another for new blood; sex immaterial. FOR SALE: Aviary-bred Cockateels, 10s. 6d. pair, and Saffron Finches 5s. 6d. pair. Cock Diamond Doves 10s. 6d. each. Meercat in my possession, 3 years, at present living in unheated hutch outside, thoroughly tame, intelligent, interesting pet; want of space only reason for selling; approval £5.—Rattigan, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, rearranged, and refurnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods keets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parra- 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.



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FOR SALE: Long-tailed Glossy Starling, feed from fingers, 25s. R. E. Simpson, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds.

WANTED: A Cock Mule Goldfinch + Linnet, in song.—Miss Wait, 12, Rosary Gardens, London, S.W.

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Avicultural Magazine: "Everything given is useful, and in heartily recommending this book to our readers we hope that they will give Mr. Page their practical support in order that he may bring out a second book on the subject as foreshadowed in his preface."

From the Author, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

We urge our members to re-peruse the Notices in December issues of *Bird Notes*, and ask all to unite in the effort to make the progress and success of the Club, in all its sections, greater than in any preceding year.

CLUB DINNER: This will be held on Thursday, April 17th, at Holborn Restaurant (Dinner 4s., morning dress); if sufficient members intimate their intention to attend to the Hon. Secretary of the Social Committee (W. T. Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood). There must be at least 20 such intimations before any definite arrangements can be entered into. The time and all other details will be given in our next issue.

COMMITTEES: A list of these will be published in March issue.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

* * *

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

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Miss St. A. Wait	0	10	0

Errata Re Roll

"Donnell, O. O.," should read O'Donnel, O.

Dawson-Smith, F., Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, add to Roll.

Changes and Corrections of Address

H. E. Bliss, to Church Street, Middleburg, Cape Colony.
W. Bush, to County Borough of Newport School of Art, Clarence Place, Newport, Mon.
Dr. Andrew Walker, to The Rectory, Oodsall, Retford, Notts.

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. E. Ogg, The Grove, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire.
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Mrs. Thomas, Rawson-Shaw, Allangate, Rustington, Worthing.
By H. L. Currey.
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Abraham Isaacs, Upper St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.
By H. Willford.
Dr. C. J. Lathbury, Ashton Avenue, Dunstable
By J. C. W. Meadows.
C. P. Arthur, Market Place, Melksham, Wilts.
R. Colton, 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield. *By the Hon. Editor.*

New Members Elected.

Hugh Whistler, I.P., Battle, Sussex.
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Alexis Komyakoff, Novinsky Boulevard 109, Moscow, Russia.
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E. Hattersley, 16, Thornfield Road, Far Headingley, Leeds.
Reginald B. Bufton, Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells.

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WANTED: Cock Silver-eared Mesia; Hen Gold-fronted Bulbul; Pair Black-headed Sibias; Hen Red-headed Gouldian.—Freeland, Hill Rise, Tonbridge.

WANTED: Elegant and other Grass Parrakeets; Cock Blue-wing Grass Parrakeet; Pair of Blue Bonnets; also Pair of Red-vented Blue Bonnets; Hen Crimson-wing; Hen Yellow-bellied Parrakeet.—Miss Clare, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon.

WANTED: Pairs of Painted, Rain, and Common Quail.—Philip Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

WANTED: A pair of Passerine Parrakeets (Blue-winged Lovebirds), aviary bred; young birds would suit if sex is distinct. —Miss Susan Rutherford, 14, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh.

SALE OR EXCHANGE: Will part with or take mates for following: cock Zebra Dove, cock Blue-winged Lovebird, cock St. Helena Seedeater, hen Olive Finch (last year's), hen Gouldian Finch, cock Nonpareil Bunting, hen Paradise Whydah, cock Grey-singing Finch, and cock Saffron Finch.—J. S. Reeve, Leadenham, Lincoln.

VERY fine pair Stanley Parrakeets, own breeding, out-side all winter, splendid condition.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE: Rose Starling, excellent condition, feed from fingers. What offers?—Stoney, 21 Mount Carmel Chambers, Church Street, London, W.

UNBOUND Volumes of "Bird Notes." Vol. I. (New Series), Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12. Vol. II. (Nos. 7 and 8 missing). Vol. III. complete. Good condition. The lot, 12s.—Mrs. Forster, Pinehurst, Shoreheath, Farnham, Surrey.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, rearranged, and refurnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED: Cock Red-rump Parrakeet from out-door aviary; must be in good plumage.—Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.

WANTED: Young adult Ring-neck Parrakeet. FOR SALE: Pair of Canary-winged Parrakeets, 25s.—Mrs. Croysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

FOR SALE: Cock Pennant, grand plumage, 3 years out-door aviary (paired hen Rosella 1910), sure breeder, £2 10s.; Pair Cockatiels 12s; one hen Green Budgerigar 2s. 6d.; one pair Madagascar Lovebirds 2s. 6d.; all out-doors.—Marriner, Denton, Ben Rhydding.

FOR SALE: Pair Hybrid Californian + Venezuelan Quail, very handsome, 42s.; Pair White-winged Doves, 10s.; Hen Aurita Dove 10s.; Cock Indigo Bunting 15s.; Cock Grey Grosbeak (fine singer), 15s.; Cock Masked Grassfinch, 15s.; Cockateel, cock, 7s. 6d.; Cock Pileated Finch 15s.; all acclimatised.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury.

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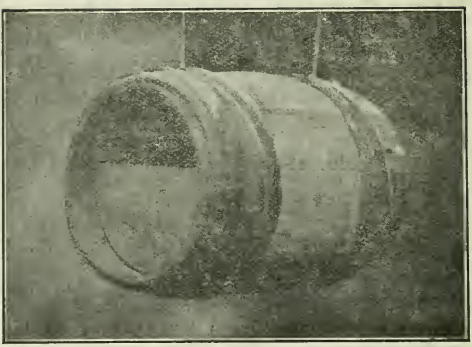

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From the Author, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mritcham, Surrey.

The Foreign Bird Club.

(*Continued from page 1*).

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J. Robson,
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S. M. Townsend.

Post Mortem Reports.

Golden Pheasant (♀). (Mrs. C. H. Williams, Exeter). Although the carcase was in a very fair condition the bird must have been suffering from tuberculosis some time. The right lung was completely disorganised, being in a caseous condition. The liver was crammed full with tubercles of various sizes ranging from a poppy-seed up to that of a pea. The spleen also contained a few tubercles. This disease being very contagious the remaining birds should either be destroyed or turned on to fresh ground. Poultry are liable to contract and also to disseminate the disease. It is possible to test the birds for tuberculosis by the use of tuberculin. All those that have the disease in them give a rise of temperature after the injection of tuberculin; those that have not the disease in them do not give this elevation of temperature. Before tuberculin is used the temperatures should be taken twice a day for two days, and if normal (average 106·5 F) the tuberculin should be injected under the skin of the wing in the morning and the birds' temperatures taken every hour. Should there be a rise above 108 °F the birds showing such should be destroyed. There are other methods of using the tuberculin such as dropping one or two drops of it into the conjunctival sac of the eye, on a scratched surface on the skin, or injected into the thickness of the skin, when, if tuberculosis is present in the system there is a reddening and thickening with perhaps a discharge from the inoculated part Such methods however, are unreliable and therefore the subcutaneous method is preferable. A local veterinary surgeon having experience of testing cows with tuberculin could carry out this testing for you. Other tuberculiform or nodular diseases of birds having a similar naked eye appearance to tuberculosis are aspergillosis, the chronic form of avian cholera, streptobacillosis or pseudo-tuberculosis, etc. It would be more economical to destroy the lot, disinfect, remove earth, etc., and leave the aviaries empty for a few months and then start afresh with healthy stock. The infection is taken in with the food, which no doubt gets contaminated with the faeces of infected birds. Although the gallinaceæ generally contract the avian type of tuberculosis, it is quite possible for them to develop the disease from human beings, pigs, etc.

GREEN SINGING FINCH. (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia. BLUE SUGAR-BIRD. Cause of death, pneumonia.

Answered by post—Frank Johnson, Lady Kathleen Pilkington, Hubert D. Astley, W. A. Bainbridge.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S

Notices to Members.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS: There are still a fair number outstanding. Will those who hitherto have overlooked the matter, kindly remit at once, this being necessary for the facile working of the club business.

THE MAGAZINE: Copy is needed to keep our contents varied, also donations to Illustration Fund if our usual number of half-tone and other illustrations are to be maintained.

The recent L.P.O.S. Show practically ends the Show Season, and we trust members will not fail to send in copy of the doings of their birds now that the more purely avicultural portion of the year is upon us; and to this end we urge every member to keep an Aviary Log Book, and to send in their records from time to time. Articles are specially requested upon the following subjects: Breeding ing Records (all species)—British Birds—Aviary Episodes in General—Feeding and Treatment of Birds. Parrots, Parrakeets, Lories, and Lorikeets (articles are specially requested upon this group) there are several members who specialize with the PSITTACI who have not contributed to our pages.

NEW MEMBERS: We once more bring this matter before our members—will all, or as many as possible, kindly make an effort to introduce one or more during the present year—we ought to soon double our membership if a united effort were made, and the early part of the year is best for this purpose.

CLUB DINNER: Having received several promises of attendance, it is being arranged to hold the Dinner at the Holborn Restaurant on April 17th (Thursday), at 6-30 p.m. for 6-45 prompt (Dinner 4s., morning dress). Those who have not already intimated their intention of being present, will they please do so at once to W. T. Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex. It is sincerely hoped that a good number of members and friends will be present.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

	£	s.	d.
Amsler, Dr.	1	0	0
Gorringe, Rev. (over-paid subscription)	0	0	6
Paterson, Rev. J.	0	10	0
Rumsey, Lacey	0	10	0
Wardale, H.	0	10	0
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The Hon Walter B. Wrottesley	0	7	0

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Miss Cicely Lindsay-Hogg; Rotherfield Hall, Jarvis Brook, Sussex.
By W. R. Temple.

Mrs. Hobart Ames, North Easton, Massachusetts, U.S.A.
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John B. Burnham, President, American Game Protection and Propogation Association, Trinity Buildings, 111 Broadway, New York, U.S.A.
By Major B. R. Horsbrugh.

Dr L. Lovell-Keys, Park Lodge, East Hoathley, Halland, Sussex.
By the Hon. Editor.

Archibald J. Constable, The Lodge, Littlehampton.
By H. C. Currey, seconded by the Hon. Editor.

New Members Elected.

J. E. Ogg, The Grove, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire.
Thomas, Rawson-Shaw, Allangate, Rustington, Worthing.
Dr. C. J. Lathbury, Ashton Avenue, Dunstable
C. P. Arthur, Market Place, Melksham, Wilts.
R. Colton, 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield,

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Dr. M. Amsler, to Eton Court House, High Street, Eton, Windsor.
Lieut. F. M. Littledale, to Norfolk House, Brockhurst, Gosport.
Dr. J. McDonagh to 4 Wimpole Street, London, W.
H. Whistler, J.P., to c/o King, King and Co., Agents, Bombay, India.
L. W. Wood, to Malting Farm, Aldwinde, Thrapston.
E. R. Faux, to Heathfield, Jews' Walk, Sydenham, London, S.E.
Viscountess E. Malden, to Great Bookham, Leatherhead.

Note: "Miss Susan Ruthe ford" should read—Rutherfurd—*vide* "New Members Elected" in February issue.

Note: "Chilton B. Hall" on page 3 (Roll), should read "Chinton B. Hale."

The Show Season.

The following is a list of Medal winners for the past season:

Clapham—Bronze Medal—Mr. A. Ezra.
Manchester—Silver Medal—Mr. J. M. Walsh.
Sheffield—Silver Medal—Mr. G. Fletcher.
Nottingham—Silver Medal—not awarded, as winner and runner-up have already taken a medal this season.
Bradford—Silver Medal—Lady Pilkington.
Luton—Silver Medal—Miss M. Bousfield.
Edinburgh—Silver Medal—Mr. J. Sykes.
L.C.B.A.—Two Silver Medals—Messrs. Hawkins and Astley.
L. & P.O.S.—Two Silver Medals—Miss L. Clare and Mr. A. Ezra.

I regret that I omitted to publish the names of the cup winners last season. They are as follows: Mr. F. Howe scored most points for the Provincial Cup and Mr. S. M. Townsend for the London Cup.

For this season, the Member scoring most points for the London Cup is Mr. A. Ezra and Mr. F. Howe for the Provincial Cup, he is therefore the winner of this Cup, having won it three times.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Secretary.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The Publisher, Market Place, Ashbourne.

MEMBERS' EXCHANGES.

WANTED—Cocks: Bengalese, Indigo Finch, Ruficauda Finches ,(2), Black-cheeked Lovebirds (2). Hen: Green Avadavat, Red-headed Gouldian Finch, Bicheno's Finch, Masked Grassfinch, Gold-breasted Waxbill, and Grey-headed Lovebird.—Beaty, Strathnarn, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

EXCHANGE: Mrs. Davidson wishes to exchange young Black-cheeked Lovebirds (sex unknown) for others of same species. Yew Tree Cottage, Bitterne, Southampton.

EXCHANGE—Cocks: Cat Bird, Golden Pheasant, Indigo Bunting, White-throated Finch, Rufous-tailed Grass-finch, Dusky Finch. Yellow-winged Sugarbird, Pintailed Whydah, Yellow Sparrow. Hens: Malabar Starling, Maroon Tanager, American Nonpareil (damaged foot), Green Singing-finch, Magpie Manakin, Jacarini Finch, and Red-throated Sugar-bird.—R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE from Out-door Aviary: Cock Zebra Dove 4s.; Hen St. Helena Waxbill 2s. 6d.; Cock Saffron Finch 3s. 6d.; Hen Canary 1s. 6d.; or 2 Avadavats; INDOORS: Hen Olive Finch (last year's) 10s.; Hen Bearded Tit, 10s. WANTED FROM OUT-DOOR AVIARY: Cock Paradise Whydah; Pair Cape Doves (*Æna capensis*?); Pair Diamond Doves; Pair Grey-headed Lovebirds; Hen Saffron Finch; 2 Pairs Breeding Barbary Doves.—Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

WANTED: Acclimatised pairs Painted Quail; Pintail Nonpareil; hens, Golden-breasted Waxbill and Firefinch; mates for or would sell the following: Cordon Bleu (hen), St. Helena Waxbill (hen), Aurora Finch (cock), and Red-headed Gouldian Finch (cock); or part exchange the latter for pair of Black-headed Gouldian Finches. FOR SALE: Hen Cuban Finch 12s. 6d.—Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey.

SALE OR EXCHANGE: One Tui and one Tovi Parrakeet. Would exchange for small Finches or Waxbills, or sell.—Lady Malden, Great Bookham, Letherhead.

WANTED TO EXCHANGE: Pairs (out-doors) of Saffrons and Zebra Finches for true pairs (out-doors) of Lavender Finches, Cordon Bleus, Avadavats, and St. Helena Waxbills.—Mrs. Stanley Gardiner, Barton Road, Cambridge.

EXCHANGE: Mrs. Travis has four male Diamond Doves without mates. Will any member sell one or two hens, or exchange for Hen Painted Quail, Hen Masked Grassfinch, or Grey and Green Singing-finches?—Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

EXCHANGE: Green and Yellow Budgerigars for Acclimatised Waxbills.—J. H. Henstock, "Avian Press," Ashbourne.

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Pairs: Zebra Finches, 7s. 6d.; Nutmeg Finches, 2s. 6d.; Cockateels (have bred) 11s. 6d.; Budgerigars, 5s. 6d.; Black-headed Mannikins, 2s.; Rosellas, 35s.; Bronze Mannikins, 3s. 6d.; all per pair. ODD BIRDS: Red-rump (hen), 15s. 6d.; Bocage's Bishop Bird, 10s. 6d.; Cock Golden Pheasant (18 months), 21s.; Hen Amherst Pheasant (12 months), 25s.; Plover (tame), 5s. 6d.; Diamond Doves, 8s. 6d.; Red-billed Weavers, 1s. 6d.; Pileated Song Sparrow, 6s.; Starling, 1s. 6d.; Grey-headed Lovebird (hen), 2s.; Cock Canaries, 7s. 6d. each. All guaranteed acclimatised, and on weeks approval.—Rattigan, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.

WANTED: Cocks, Grenadier and Madagascar Weavers. FOR SALE: Several Crimson Crowned Weavers, 8s. each, twice cage moulted. —Apply the Hon. Business Secretary.

WANTED: 2 Cock Parrot Finches; Hen Blue Budgerigar; pairs Long-tailed Grassfinches, and Cordon Bleus.—M. C. Hawke, Wighill Park, Tadcaster.

WANTED: 2 Hen Yellow-naped, hen King, hen Crimson-wing, also Grass Parrakeets, Blue-wings and Elegants. Would exchange Cock Yellow-naped for hen—Miss L. Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED: Acclimatised hen Firefinch; and pairs of Green Avadavats, and Cuban Finches.—Curry, Lambolle, Lodge, Littlehampton.

FOR SALE: Blue Grosbeaks, cocks only, 10s. each; Pileated Finches, cocks only, 6s. each; fine pair Red Rosellas, 60s.; Superb Tanagers, 20s. each; Pope Cardinals, 7s. 6d. each; pair Violet-eared Waxbills, £5; odd hens 45s.; fine hen Alexandra's Parrakeet 20s.; Saffron Finches, 3s. pair; cock Virginian Cardinal 20s.—Yealland, Havenstreet, Ryde.

FOR SALE: Cock Barnard's Parrakeet; pair Yellow-winged Sugarbirds; cock Purple Sugarbird; cock Crimson Finch.—Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

WANTED: Hen Gold-fronted Bulbul; hen Red-headed Gouldian; hen Superb Tanager; cock Tri-coloured Tanager.—Freeland, Hill Rise, Tonbridge.

UNBOUND Volumes of "Bird Notes." Vol. I. (New Series), Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12. Vol. II (Nos. 7 and 8 missing). Vol. III. complete. Good condition. The lot, 12s.—Mrs. Forster, Pinehurst, Shoreheath, Farnham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Vol. I. *Bird Notes*, N.S., new condition, 20s.; Cassell's Book of Birds, 3 Vols., new condition, 20s.; Gedney's Foreign Birds, 2 Vols., scarce, 15s.; Virginian Nightingale, Crystal Palace bronze medal winner, 35s.; Tri-coloured Tanager, special winner Crystal Palace, 40s.; Silver-blue Tanager 25s.; Mexican Green Jay, colour-fed, gem, 40s.; Indian Shamas, clean healthy birds, 35s., 40s., 45s.; Budgerigars, selected for show, 7s. 6d., 10s. 6d. pair; Pekin Robins, cocks in full song, finest specimens living, 10s. 6d.; Australian Masked Finches, 30s. pair; White-headed Mannikins, Cordon Bleus, show condition, 12s. 6d. pair; Zebra Finches, nesting, 10s. 6d. pair; Orange Bishop, full colour, 7s. 6d.; Rare British Dartford Warbler, winner Championship Diploma and many firsts, £10; Bearded Tits, 1st Horticultural Hall, 35s. pair; Long-tailed Tits, perfection, 30s. pair; Black Redstart 35s.; Little Owls 7s. 6d. All birds in cold bird-room throughout winter. Insectivorous birds' food, finest mixture on earth, sample lb., 1s. 10d. free.—John Frostick, Endlesham Road, Balham.

FOR SALE: Three Australian Crested Pigeons (one cock and two hens); also one cock Bronze-wing Pigeon, 20s. the four.—R. Colton, 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

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NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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APRIL, 1913.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: Owing to a very sudden bereavement, the Editor regrets that this issue has had to go through incomplete. He is greatly indebted to the Rev. G. H. Raynor who has kindly consented to put through the proofs at very short notice.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS: There are still a fair number outstanding. Will those who hitherto have overlooked the matter, kindly remit at once, this being necessary for the facile working of the club business.

THE MAGAZINE: Copy is needed to keep our contents varied, also donations to Illustration Fund if our usual number of halftone and other illustrations are to be maintained.

NEW MEMBERS: We once more bring this matter before our members—will all, or as many as possible, kindly make an effort to introduce one or more during the present year—we ought to soon double our membership if a united effort were made, and the early part of the year is best for this purpose.

CLUB DINNER: This will be held April 17th, at the Inns of Court Hotel, High Holborn, instead of at the Holborn Restuarant. It is to be hoped as many members as possible will be present and bring their friends. Tickets 4s. each, morning dress.

EDITOR'S BEREAVEMENT: Our members will be sorry to hear of the sad loss of our Hon. Editor, Mr. W. T. Page, whose sister died suddenly on the 5th April. Should this number not be quite as large as usual we hope members will understand and am sure their sympathy will be with Mr. Page and his Family in their sad bereavement.

S. WILLIAMS, *Hon. Business Secretary and Treasurer.*
W. T. ROGERS, *Secretary, Social Committee.*

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

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Proposed for Election as Members.

A. J. Shipton, 71, Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W.
By the Hon. Business Secretary.
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By Mr. J. Sykes
Herbert Strong, The Hollies, Beckenham Lane, Bromley, Kent.
By R. S. de Q. Quincey.
Douglas R. Urwick, Whitton Hall, near Shrewsbury.
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J. C. Schlüter, Heathwood, 5, Dacres Road, Forest Hill. London S.E.
By A. Silver.
Jas. W. Drabble, 29, Holme Lane, Hillsborough, Sheffield.
W. L. Drabble, 29, Holme Lane, Hillsborough, Sheffield.
By the Hon. Editor
The Countess of Onslow, Clandon Park, Guildford.
By the Hon. Mrs. Bampfylde, seconded by the Hon. Editor.
Mrs. R. Hurndall, Ditton Hill Lodge, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey.
By A. Sutcliffe, seconded by R. Suggitt.

New Members Elected.

Miss Cicely Lindsay-Hogg; Rotherfield Hall, Jarvis Brook, Sussex.
Mrs. Hobart Ames, North Easton, Massachusetts, U.S.A.
F. C. Wolcott, 14, Wall Street, New York, U.S.A.
John B. Burnham, President, American Game Protection and Propogation Association, Trinity Buildings, 111 Broadway, New York, U.S.A.
Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, Park Lodge, East Hoathley, Halland, Sussex.
Archibald J. Constable, The Lodge, Littlehampton.

Changes and Corrections of Address

L. G. Chiozza Money, M.P., to The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, London, N.
Mrs. Howard Williams, to 51, Harley House, Regent's Park, London, N.W.
Major G. A. Perreau, to 13, Sion Hill, Bath.
O. Millsum, to 7, Cliftonville Parade, Margate.
J. Yealland to Brinstead, Isle of Wight.
Hon. Mrs. Bourke, 75, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, W. until end of December, 1913.

The Bird Market.

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Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

MEMBERS' EXCHANGES.

EXCHANGE: Cock Barnard and cock Yellow-naped, latter for hen or Parrot Finches, or Gouldians.—Miss L. Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

FOR SALE: Hybrid Red-crested x Green Cardinal, cock, handsome, 21s.; Black Tanager, cock, acclimatised, tame, 12s. 6d.; the following wintered outside: Pair White-headed Mannikins 4s.; one Black-headed 2s.; pair Spice Birds 3s.; cock Cutthroat 2s. Rouels Sittingroom Cage, 2 feet long, 12s. 6d., cost more than double, scarcely used. WOULD EXCHANGE—WANTED Diamond Sparrows, Grassfinch, hen, Seth Smith's book of Parrakeets and hen Red-headed Finch.—Miss A. B. Smyth, 40, Davenport Road, Catford, London, S.E.

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Cock Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot 20s.; hen Black-crested Yellow Bulbul 30s.; Also hens Yellow Budgerigars 5s. each; acclimatised.—Wm. Shore-Baily, Boyer's House, Westbury, Wilts.

WANTED: Pair of Black-headed Sibias, Pair of Indigo Buntings, Pair of Scarlet Tanagers, Pair of Black-shouldered Tanagers, and Pair of Blue Tanagers.—Freeland, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge.

FOR SALE: Very Handsome Brazilian Hangnest, tame, acclimatized, 30s.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury Wilts.

FOR SALE: Vol. I. *Bird Notes*, new condition, 20s.—J. Frostick, 137, Endlesham Road, Balham, London, S.W.

FOR SALE: One pair very fine Green Budgerigars, 5s. and two young hens, 3s. each, or 5s. 6d. the two.—Miss Susan Rutherfurd, 14 Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh.

WANTED: Acclimatized Hens Senegal Dove; Cape Dove Ring-necked and Red-rump Parrakeets. Pair Diamond Doves.—E. F. M. Elms, Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey.

WANTED: Hens, Gouldians, and Blue-winged Lovebirds. Pairs: Parson, Long-tailed Grass, and Masked Finches. Also Green Avadavats.—Pickles, Stoneyhurst, Morecambe.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, rearranged, and refurnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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DIAMOND Sparrows, perfect feather, hen laying, 40s. pair; Masked Grass-finches, acclimatised, 30s. pair; White-headed Mannikins, Cordon Bleus (cage moulted) 12s. 6d. pair; Zebra Finches nesting; Green Avadavats, selected, 10s. 6d. pair; Rufous-necked Weaver, 10s. 6d.; Orange Weaver, full colour, 7s. 6d.; Indian Shama, singing, 40s.; Purple Sugar-birds, show specimens, 40s., 50s.; Tri-coloured Tanager, Palace special winner, 40s.; Silver-blue Tanager, 25s.; Virginian Nightingale, lovely songster, Palace medal winner, 35s.; American Nonpariel, finest specimen living, 25s.; Pekin Robin cock, 5s. 6d.; Dartford Warblers; Bearded Tits; Long-tailed Tits; Black Redstart; Shore-lark; Carrion Crow; Hand-reared hen Bullfinches; Goldfinches, Corn, Reed, Snow, Yellow Buntings, all cage-moulted. My special Insectivorous Birds' Food is unequalled. Sample lb., 1s. 1d., free.—John Frostick, Endlesham Road, Balham.

FOR SALE: One pair Red-head Gouldians, 30s.; one Black hen Gouldian, 14s.; one pair Ruficaudas Finches, 20s.; one pair Yellow-rumped Mannikins, 40s.; also one pair Golden Shoulder Parrakeets.—R. Colton, 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

FOR SALE: Cock Tri-coloured Tanager, 25s.; Hen Magpie Mannikin, 5s.; Cock Grey Waxbill, 2s.—E. Simpson, 9, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds.

FOR SALE: Talking Budgerigar for disposal, says words and sentences very distinctly, whistles dog, calls cat, "kisses," feeds from lips; charming pet. Send stamp for particulars; seen by appointment. Also several exceptionally fine foreign Goldfinches, for hybrid breeding.—G. E. Weston, Hill View, Lewisham Road, Dartmouth Park, London, N.W.

FOR SALE: Jay, 25s.; Vijors Jay 25s.; Dyal Robin 25s.; Waglers Hangnest, 30s.; hen Alexander Parrakeet, anxious to nest, 20s.; Cock Blue Grosbeaks, 10s. each; Cock Pileated Finches, 6s. each; imported Senegal Doves, 7s. 6d. pair, one Cock and two hens, Bearded Tits 20s. the three. Three nice animals: One Ring-tailed Lemur, 60s., great pet; one Brown Lemur, also tame, 30s.; one Soldier or Hussar Monkey, 40s.; any on approval.—*Note address*: Yealland, Brinstead, Isle of Wight.

FOR SALE: Yellow-winged Sugarbirds two pairs and odd Cock; Cock Purple Gold-fronted Bulbul; Crimson Finch. WANTED: Parrot Finches and Hen Gouldians. FOR SALE: Cock Barnard; Cock Yellow-naped. WANTED: Hens Yellow-naped.—Miss L. Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

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- *1 pair Easten Variegated Laughing Thrush (*Trockalopterum variegatum*). 3 guineas.
- 1 pair Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Pyctorhis sinensis*). 5 guineas.
- 1 pair Him. Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myiophoneus temmencki*). 5 guineas.
- 1 pair Malabar Blue Whistling Thrush (*M. horsfieldii*). 3 guineas.
- 1 Black-headed Sibia (*Lioptila capistrata*). 2 guineas.
- 1 Gold-fronted Fruitsucker (*Chloropsis aurifrons*). 50s.
- 3 (♂) Blue-winged Fruitsucker (*C. hardwickii*). 60s. each.
- 5 Silver-eared Mesia (*Mesia argentauris*). 40s. each.
- 1 Drongo (? White-bellied) £3 10s.
- 1 (♂) Cinnamon-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta cinnamomeiventris*). 50s.
- 1 pair Black-crested Yellow Bulbuls (*Otocompsa flaviventris*). 50s.
- 1 pair Grey-headed Mynah (*Sturnia malabarica*). 30s.
- 1 pair Black-headed Mynah (*Temenuchus pagodarum*). 40s.
- 1 pair Short-billed Minivets (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*). 8 guineas.
- 1 (♂) Verditer Flycatcher (*Stoporala melanops*). 60s.
- 1 (♂) Pied Bush-Chat (*Pratincola caprata*). 40s.
- 1 (♂) White-cap Redstart (*Chimarrhornis leucocephalus*). 50s.
- 1 (♂) Brown-backed Bush-Robin (*Thamnobia cambaiensis*). 50s.
- 1 (♂) Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*). 40s.
- 1 (♀) Shama (*Cittocincla macrura*). 50s.
- Himalayan Greenfinch (*Hypacanthis spinoides*). 30s. pair.
- 1 (♀) Pigmy Woodpecker (*Iyngipicus pygmaeus*). 3 guineas.
- Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots, 50s. pair.

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Special Quality Sweet GERMAN SUMMER RAPE, as used by all the principal Roller Breeders, 5d. lb., 7 lbs. 2s. 6d.

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American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*).
Sorry Thrushes (*Turdus tristis*).
American Mocking-birds (*Mimus polyglottis*).
Curve-billed Mocking-birds (*Harporhynchus curvirostris*).
Black-breasted Troupials.
Indian Grey Shrikes (*Lanius villatus*).
Crowned Tanagers (*Tachyphonus coronatus*).
Palm Tanagers (*Tangra palmarum*).
Falco refigularus and *Falco sparverius*.
Mexican Caracaras (*Paliborus mexicanus*).
Black Vultures (*Catharista atratus*).
Military Macaws (*Ara militaris*).
Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*).
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BIRD NOTES: "'Aviaries and Aviary Life' is certainly a book which every bird-lover and bird-keeper, and the two are the same, should have; not simply to complete his collection of ornithological works, but to have by him always, to be referred to often. It is quite one of the best of its kind we have read for a long time."

AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE: "Everything given is useful, and in heartily recommending this book to our readers we hope that they will give Mr. Page their practical support in order that he may bring out a second book on the subject as foreshadowed in his preface."

From the Author, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS AT THE ZOO: By request these gatherings are being renewed again this year, and we venture to hope that they will be more largely attended, also that London members will make a special point of being present, and avail themselves of the opportunity of meeting the members, who, residing in the country, take quite long journeys to be present, and do the birds together. The first meeting has been fixed for Thursday, May 29th, at 11 a.m. and 2-30 p.m., *rendezvous* Small Birds' House; also on Saturday, June 21st, time and place of meeting as above—Club Badges to be worn. A note to Mr. W. T. Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex, intimating intention to be present would be appreciated, as this allows of some little organisation.

THE MAGAZINE: The Hon. Editor hopes that members will keep him supplied with notes of the doings of their birds, and also send in copy of breeding records, descriptions of aviaries, accounts of new acquisitions, etc. Copy re Parrots, Parrakeets, Cranes, Waterfowl, and Game Birds generally is specially desired. Will each member kindly consider this as a personal request for an account of their aviaries (or birdrooms) and birds? Our scope covers both British and Foreign Species, and it is hoped a good number will send in copy promptly so that our contents may be kept varied. Donations are also much needed to the Illustration Fund, so that not only may the number and quality of our illustrations be kept up, but that we may also be in a position to avail ourselves of any unique opportunity that presents itself of figuring rare and uncommon species as they appear.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
S. WILLIAMS, *Hon. Business Secretary and Treasurer.*

The Provincial Cup.

The Provincial Cup, which was won this year by Mr. Frank Howe (making three times in all) was on view at the F.B.C. dinner, where it was greatly admired. Mr. Restall very kindly made us a very handsome Cup, paying the increased value himself. The Show Committee wish to tender their thanks to him for the very generous way he has treated the Club.

I shall be glad to receive any donations, however small, in order to put up another Cup for competition. I have already received the promise of one from the winner, Mr. F. Howe.

S. M. TOWNSEND.

[Another Cup must be obtained to keep the Competition going and we trust members will respond to the above or some member present a cup.—Ed].

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

	£	s.	d.
Constable, A. J.	0	7	6
Hewitt, T. W. G.	0	10	0
Perreau, Major G. A.	1	0	0

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

D. E. W. Leighton to Ravenswood, Cove, Farnborough, Hants.
Major G. A. Perreau, to 6, Marlborough Street, Bath.

Errata re Roll.

Mrs. M. Maxwell-Jackson, should be *Miss* M. Maxwell-Jackson.

New Members Elected.

A. J. Shipton, 71, Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W.
Malcolm R. Tomlinson, Shepherd House, Inveresk, Midlothian.
Herbert Strong, The Hollies, Beckenham Lane, Bromley, Kent.
Douglas R. Urwick, Whitton Hall, near Shrewsbury.
J. C. Schlüter, Heathwood, 5, Dacres Road, Forest Hill. London S.E.
Jas. W. Drabble, 29, Holme Lane, Hillsborough, Sheffield.
W. L. Drabble, 29, Holme Lane, Hillsborough, Sheffield.
The Countess of Onslow, Clandon Park, Guildford.
Mrs. R. Hurndall, Ditton Hill Lodge, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Percy W. Thorniley, Shooter's Hill, Wem, Shrewsbury.
W. H. Firth, 176, Little Hallam Lane, Ilkeston.
By the Hon. Editor.
Lewis Vale, 8, Broadway, Woodford, London, N.E.
By the Hon. Bus. Secretary.
R. Scott-Miller, Greenoakhill, Broomhouse. *By W. A. Bainbridge.*
A, T. Cussons, Kersal Vale Works, Manchester *By H. Robbins,*

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

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MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Three Nonpareils, not in colour, believed 2 cocks and one hen, 17s. each; cock Aurora Finch 10s.; cock Masked Grassfinch 12s. WANTED: Hen Aurora Finch. Would exchange Diamond Dove, either sex, to change blood.—Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—CAGES: Mrs. Miller has cages of many sorts and sizes for sale, suitable for either birdroom or sittingroom; particulars with pleasure.—27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.

FOR SALE: Melba Finches 40s. each; cock Pileated Finches 7s. 6d. each; Lanceolated Jay 25s.; Dhayal Robin 25s.; Superb Tanager, rough in feather, but healthy, 15s.; St. Helena Waxbills 5s. 6d. pair. Also two beautiful Woodpeckers from Brazil, *species unknown*, and pair of Pigeons from Africa, *species unknown*; any sent on approval to members of F.B.C.—Yealland, Binstead, I. of W.

WANTED: Cock Nonpareil Bunting.—Hon Lilla de Yarburgh-Bateson, Heslington, York.

FOR SALE: Cocks, fine Indigo Finch, 18s.; Spotted Pigeon (exchange for hen) 20s.; Java Dove 2s.; pair of very rare Rufous Pigeons £3 10s.; two nice Canaries 5s. each.—Miss Alderson, Park House, Worksop.

WANTED: Two acclimatised hen Parrot Finches.—Mrs. Turner-Turner, Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Hants.

FOR SALE: Pairs Zebra Finches 7s. 6d.; Budgerigars 5s. 6d. Odd birds: Bocage's Widow Bird 10s. 6d.; Golden Pheasant (cock) 12s. 6d.; White-crested Quail 20s. 6d.; Plover (tame) 5s.; Canaries (cocks) 7s. 6d.; Rose Starling 12s. 6d.; Many-Colour Parrakeet (cock, perfect) 50s. WANTED: Hen Gold Crest.—Rattigan, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.

FOR SALE: Personally imported: 1 Pair Black Gorgetted Laughing Thrushes 50s.; 3 Rufous-necked Laughing Thrushes 70s. the three; 1 Gold-fronted Fruitsucker 30s.; 2 ♂ Hardwickii's Fruitsuckers 45s. each; 1 White-bellied Drongo 50s.; 1 Whitecap Redstart 40s.; 1 ♂ Brown-backed Indian Robin 40s.; 1 ♂ Dayal 35s.; 1 Pair Malabar Mynahs 50s.; 1 pair Pagodah Mynahs 40s.; the two last each laid eggs in Indian aviary last year.—Major Perreau, 6, Marlborough Street, Bath.

FOR SALE: Jamaican Pea Doves (*Z. amabilis*), rare, but similar to *Z. aurita*.—Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED: Hen, Blue-winged Lovebird.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE: Australian Birds, now very rare, Barnard's Parrakeets £7 10s.. pair, odd cock, £3 15s.; Bar-shouldered Doves 40s. pair; Diamond Hen 20s.; Black Gould's Hen 20s.; acclimatised Diamond Sparrows 40s.; Zebra cock 5s.; Green Avadavats 10s. 6d. pair; White-headed Mannikins, Show Birds, 15s. pair; Rufous-necked Weaver 10s. 6d.; Madagascar Scarlet Weaver, 6s.; Indian Shamas (cocks and hens), clean healthy birds, 50s. each; Golden-fronted Green Honeysuckers, ex-fine colour, 50s.; Purple Sugar-bird (show form) 50s.; Silver-blue Tanager 25s.; Pekin Robin, cock, 5s. 6d.; Virginian Nightingale, Palace medal winner, 35s.; American Nonpareil, finest specimen living, 25s. Rare British Birds:—Pure White Blackbird Hen, anxious to nest, perfect, £5; Dartford Warbler; Pied Flycatcher, 35s.; Blue-throated Warbler, exhibition form, 25s.; Black Redstart, 50s.; Long-tailed, and Bearded Tits, Exhibition Finches, Buntings, &c. Special unequalled Insectivorous Bird's Food 1s. 10d. lb., free.—John Frostick, Endlesham Road, Balham.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Club Meetings at the Zoo: The second of these meetings will take place on Saturday, June 21st, at 2-30 p.m., *rendezvous*, Small Birds' House. Club Badges to be worn. A note to Mr. W. T. Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex, intimating intention to be present would be appreciated, as this allows of some little organization. If members coming from a distance desire to be there in the morning, they will be met at 11 a.m., Small Birds' House, if they notify the Hon. Sec. of Social Committee by the 19th inst., latest.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
S. WILLIAMS, *Hon. Business Secretary and Treasurer.*

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules (See Page iii of Cover.)

Gouldian Finch (Capt. J. S. Reeves, Lincoln.) The cause of death was pneumonia.

Gouldian Finch (♀). (W. E. Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey.) Cause of death was pneumonia.

Cuban Finch. (H. A. Swayne, Dublin.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Finch (♀). (G. E. Haggie, Oxford.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Two White-cheeked Quails (♂). (W. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts.) Both died from coccidiosis—a protozoal disease of the intestines. This disease sometimes spreads with great rapidity, causing terrible losses in young pheasants, young chickens, young grouse, canaries, etc. It is very prevalent in the spring and early summer. It is largely spread all over the kingdom by the traffic of one or a few days' old chickens In young Turkeys it gives rise to "blackhead"; young chicks "white diarrhæa"; and older ones "dysenteric" or "bloody diarrhæa."

Gouldian Finch (♂). (A. B. Smyth, Catford, S.E.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Gouldian Finch (♂). (F. M. Littledale, Cowes, I.W.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

White Java Sparrow (♂) (M. R. Tomlinson, Inveresk. Midlothian.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Blue Mexican Thrush (♀). (W. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Weaver. (G. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Cordon Bleu (♀). (H. P. Gloyne, Hampton Wick.) Cause of death, hæmorrhage on the brain.

Bird (species ?) (Miss D. E. Pithie, Southsea. Hants.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Yorkshire Canary (♂). Miss Maxwell Jackson, Harrogate.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

White Turkey (♀). (Lady Poltimore, Exeter.) Cause of death, peritonitis consequent on rupture of the oviduct.

Parrot Finch (♂) (H. A. Swayne, Dublin.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Rufus-tailed Grass Finch. (G. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

White Java Sparrow. (R. E, Simpson, Armley, Leeds.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Diamond Dove (♂). (W. A. Bainbridge. Thorpe, Surrey.) Cause of death, hæmorrhage on brain.

Answered by Post—Miss E. F. Chawner, Mrs. Smith-Ryland, Mrs. Hollins, Col. J. J. Routh, Miss A. Bruce.

H. GRAY, M,R.C.V.S.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

	£	s.	d.
Miss M. Bousfield	1	0	0
Mrs. W. F. Henderson	0	11	0

Provincial Cup Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. K. Leslie Miller	0	10	0

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

Lieut. F. M. Littledale to The Hayes, West Cowes, I.W.

Mrs. Ffrench-Williams to 28 Argyll Mansions, King's Road Chelsea, London, S.W.

A. C. Young, to 33, Brandling Park, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

H. Whistler, J.P., M.B.O.U., to Jhelum, Punjab, India.

New Members Elected.

Percy W. Thorniley, Shooter's Hill, Wem, Shrewsbury

W. H. Firth, 176, Little Hallam Lane, Ilkeston.

Lewis Vale, 8, Broadway, Woodford, London, N.E.

R. Scott-Miller, Greenoakhill, Broomhouse.

A. T. Cussons, Kersal Vale Works, Manchester

Proposed for Election as Members.

Richardson Carr, Home Farm, Tring, Herts.
By Miss R. Alderson.

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G. H. Gurney, Keswick Hall, Norwich. *By S. Williams.*

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Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

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OBJECTS OF THE CLUB.

1. To encourage the keeping of wild animals and birds by private individuals.
2. To help such private individuals when starting with advice as to the purchase of animals and birds, and the management of same.
3. To enable members to get in touch with other members or persons desirous of selling or exchanging wild animals and birds.
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3. The right of advertising, free of charge, in the Monthly List, any duplicate animal for sale or exchange, which list will be sent to all Members and certain outside Zoological Societies and dealers.
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JULY, 1913,

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Club Meetings at the Zoo: Further meetings will be held on Thursday, July 24th, and Saturday, August 16th. *Rendezvous* in each instance, Small Birds' House, London Zoo—the July meeting at 11-15 a.m. and 2-30 p.m. The August meeting is an afternoon one, and the time 2-30 p.m., but any member coming up from a distance, and who are desirous of looking round in the morning will be met at the Small Birds' House at 11-15 a.m., if Mr. W. T. Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex, be notified at least two days before the date of the meeting.

The Magazine: Members are urgently requested to send details of their aviaries and birds, as we are desirous that the bulk of the contents of the Magazine shall consist of records of members' aviaries, birds, and the episodes connected therewith. Will members kindly prove responsive and save the Hon. Editor the task of having to send out appeals for copy.

WESLEY T. PAGE, Hon. Editor.
S. WILLIAMS, Hon. Business Sec. & Treas.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

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Mrs. Henderson	0	11	0
Dr. L. Lovell-Keays	0	11	0
R. Scott Miller	0	17	6
Miss L. M. St. A. Wait	0	18	0

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E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.B., etc., to 45, Sussex Square, Brighton.
P. Owen, to 5, Rue Lap'erouse, xvi.e, Paris.

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G. Mortimer Kelson, Home Cottage, Sunbury-on-Thames.
A. G. Findeisen, Hallow Dene, Torquay.
G. H. Gurney, Keswick Hall, Norwich.

Proposed for Election as Members.

John Currie, 128, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh.
By M. R. Tomlinson.

Marshall Murton, Osborne Villas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
By C. T. Maxwell.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: The Hon. Editor apologises for the late appearance of this issue, the cause being twofold—no copy at proper date of going to press, and his absence from home—he would take this opportunity of reminding members that it is no part of an Editor's duties *to write the Magazine*. There must be many members who could enrich our pages, with notes of their birds and aviaries.

ZOO MEETINGS: That of August 16th will have passed ere this appears, but there will be one other arranged for September, date to be given in next issue. We suggest meetings at Natural History Museum and other similar places during the winter months, and invite members' opinions on the matter.

WESLEY T. PAGE, Hon. Editor.
S. WILLIAMS, Hon. Business Sec. & Treas.

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The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:—

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W. J. C. Frost		7	6
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C. S. R. Perring, to Claremont Avenue, New Malden, Surrey.
Capt. A. E. Browne to Belmont, Murree, Punjab, India.
H. T. Boyd, Box 374, Ketowna, Brit. Colombia, Canada.

New Members Elected.

John Currie, 128, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh.
Marshall Murton, Osborne Villas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. Alex. Henderson, Cassland, Springwell Road, Tonbridge.
By G. Scott Freeland.
J. Jardine, Castle Inilk, Lockerbie, N.B.
By Lady Edith Douglas Pennant.
J. S. Fry, Cobo, Guernsey.
Baronne Le Clement de Taintegnies, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset.
By S. Williams, F.Z.S.
W. J. C. Frost, 13 Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick Park, London, W.
By the Hon. Editor.
Chas. Armstrong; The Grove, Cambridge.
By Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley.
—. Jenks, Ebury Street, London S.W. *By Miss A. F. Hall.*

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE: 2 Cock Rheas, bred at Ballywalter Park in 1911; fine and healthy; price £7 each or £12 for the two.—Lady Dunleath, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

FOR SALE.—CAGES: Mrs. Miller has cages of many sorts and sizes for sale, suitable for either birdroom or sittingroom; particulars with pleasure.—27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.

YOUNG Black-cheek Love-birds, sex unknown—perfect. 12s. each. Mrs. Cartwright, Bretton Lodge, Wakefield.

FOR SALE: Out-door Aviary Bred Young Red-rump Parrakeets, Cocks, 15s.; Young Cockatiels, 4s.—Mrs Read, Bury Rectory, Hants.

FOR SALE: Aviary Bred Zebra Finches, 6s. pair; Cocks 3s. 6d., Hens, 4s.—Capt. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

WANTED: Cock Red-rump Parrakeet, also Hen Rufous-winged Dove (*chalcopelia afra*); would exchange odd cock.—Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pairs of Euler's Finches, Blue-bonnet Parrakeets, and Red-collared Lorikeets.—Dr. Lovell Keays, Park Lodge, East Hoathly, Sussex.

WANTED: Acclimatised pairs of Masked Grassfinches, Parrot Finches, Lavender Finches, Green Cardinals, Orange-headed Ground-Thrushes, Jacarini Finches, Diamond Sparrows, Blue Tanagers, Scarlet Tanagers, Maroon Tanagers.—Grossmith, The Grange Bickley, Kent.

BEAUTIFUL Pair Purple Capped Lories, £5; Hen Chattering Lory £2 10s.; Pair Fine Pennants £5 10s.; Pair Rosellas £2 10s.; Pair Black-cheeked Love-birds £2; Two Cocks and Hen Madagascar Lovebirds 6s.; Pair Indian Parrakeets, 10s.; young Indian Parrakeet, 5s.; 3 Pairs Cockateels 30s.; Odd Cock Cockateels 4s. 6d.; Indigo Bunting, 20s.; Indigo Bunting (blind eye), 10s.; Pair White Java Sparrows, 8s.; 5 Grey Java Sparrows, 10s.; 4 Spicebirds 8s.; Cock Crested Cardinal 7s. 6d.; Hen Pekin Robin 2s.; 6 Weavers, various, 12s.; Cock Cutthroat 2s.; 4 Cock Budgerigars 8s. All in out-door aviary. In perfect health; acclimatised.—Lady Webster, Powdermill House, Battle, Sussex.

FOR SALE: 1 Hen Silver Pheasant, 1 Hen Golden; 2 half-grown Silver Pheasants. 4 ditto Golden; 1 Blue Mountain Lorikeet; 1 Mandarin Duck; 1 ♀ Cockatiel. All in good condition. Lorikeet a beauty—will feed from hand. What offers? R. A. Dyott, Freeford, Lichfield.

WANTED: Pairs of Amethyst Sunbirds, Hooded Siskins, Rainbow Buntings, Indian White-eyes, Red-vented Bulbuls, also Cock Golden-fronted Bulbul. Must be in first-class feather, healthy, and fit to put into big Garden Aviary after short period of quarrantine.—G. S. Freeland, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE: Superb Cock Adelaide Parrakeet. Winner—80s.; exchange acclimatised Gouldians. Approval. Reg. P Bufton, Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells.

FOR SALE: Crested Tits, 20s. each, 35s. pair; Blue-throated Warbler 25s.; Pied Flycatcher 35s.; Black Redstart 50s.; Pure White Blackbird £5; Blackbird, show specimen 42s.; Japanese Robin, very rare, £6; Pekin Robins, true pair 10s. 6d.; Indian Shama, 50s.; Golden-fronted Green Honeysucker, 50s.; Purple Sugar-bird, finest living, 60s.; Silver-blue, and Tri-coloured Tanagers, 25s. each; Bar-shouldered Doves, rare, 35s. pair; breeding pair, now nesting, 60s.; Harlequin Doves, fit to show, 10s. pair; Black-headed Gouldian Finches, 35s. pair; Red-headed Hen 25s.; Long-tailed Grass Finches, 35s. pair; selected Cordon Bleus, Golden-breasted Waxbills, White-headed Mannikins 5s. pair; Zebra Finches 7s. 6d. pair; Rufous-necked Weaver 8s. 6d.; Madagascar Weaver, 6s. 6d. My Special Insectivorous Birds' Food, guaranteed finest Mixture made, 1s. 10d. lb., free.—John Frostick, 137, Endlesham Road, Balham.

FOR SALE: Black-headed Gouldians, 30s. pair; Long-tailed Grass-finches, 22s. pair; Masked Grass-finches 20s. pair; also Melba Finches; one Cock Red-faced Finch; Triangular-spotted Pigeons, and Rufus-winged Doves. Expected: A small consignment of African Lovebirds.—James Yealland, Binstead, I. of W.

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, re-arranged, and refurnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of Bird Seeds and Foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates: INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d., per lb.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Expecting some Yellow-backed Weavers shortly (privately imported), £2 each. A few good Weavers for Sale, Crimson-crowned, Cocks 10s.; Short-winged Cocks 8s. 6d.; One Cock Mahali, 40s.; Crimson-collared Whydahs, also Yellow-shouldered Whydahs, 60s. per pair; Purple Cowbird, perfect, £1. S. Williams, F.Z.S., Hon. Sec., Holland Lodge, Edmonton.

NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large. These barrels, especially the large size, if fitted with a perch or twigy branch, make excellent shelters for birds of the Finch-tribe during inclement weather. Also Rush Nests for Waxbills and small Finches.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham. Surrey.

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4. The receipt of the year-book (profusely illustrated) and other publications.

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Mexican Blue Thrushes (*Melanotis caerulescens*), Red-legged Cuba Thrushes, Black Grosbeaks (*Melopyrrha nigra*). Giant Grossbeaks (*Sporophila falcirostris*), Black-headed Grossbeaks (*Zamelodia abellei*), White-throated Grosbeaks, Red-shouldered Starlings (*Agelaceus humerales*), Black Tanagers (*Tachyphonus melanoleucus*), Black-headed Sibia (*Timalia capistrata*), Yellow-vented or White-cheeked Bulbuls (*Pycononotus leucotis*), Trogons (*Prionitis*) from Cuba, Golden-fronted Fruitsuckers (*Phyllornis aurifrons*), Indian Crown-bellied Nuthatches, Indian Clack Cuckoos, Shamas (in full song), Cuban Finches, Indian Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Nepal Woodpeckers, Mexican Quails, Black Vulture Urulu, Pondickery Vulture, Chukar Partridges, Triangular spotted Pigeons, Victoria Crown Pigeons (*Goura Victoriæ*), Cape and Scaly Doves, Demoiselle Cranes, Sarus Cranes, Egyptian Flamingoes, Herons (*Ardea plumbea*), Whooper Swans, Black Swans, Bewick's Swans, Bahama Ducks, Blue-winged Teals, Chilian Teals, Chilian Pintails, Chilian Wigeons, Japanese Teals, Mandarin Ducks, Carolina Ducks. Redheaded Pochards, Bernicle Geese, Nandons, Marabous, etc., etc.

ATTENTION! NEW ARRIVALS:—

Violet-eared Finches.
Quail-finches,
Red-headed Finches (*Sporophila erythrocephala*).
Blue Finches (*Estrilda erythronotos*).
Scale-headed Finches (*Sporopipes lepidopherus*), Longtailed
Long-tailed Whydah-birds (*Penthetria caffra*),
Niobe Whydah-birds (*Penthetria ardent*),
and many other
SOUTH AFRICAN BIRDS.

PRICE-LIST FREE ON APPLICATION.

SEPTEMBER, 1913

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: The Hon. Editor would esteem it a favour if Members would send in copy early this month, as he expects to be away from home at the end of the month, and early October.

CLUB MEETINGS: The last Zoo Meeting of the season will take place on Saturday, September 20th. *Rendezvous*: Small Birds' House, at 11-15 a.m. and 2-30 p.m. Meetings are in course of arrangement for the autumn and winter months at Natural History Museum, and other places of interest. The secretaries solicit Members' suggestions re the latter.

WESLEY T. PAGE, Hon. Editor.
S. WILLIAMS, Hon. Business Sec. & Treas.

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Chawner, Miss E. F.	1	1	0
Constable, Rev. J.	0	2	6
Crisp, R. L. (overpaid subscription)	0	0	6
Hewitt, T. W. S.	1	1	0

Changes and Corrections of Addresses

Miss D. E. Pithie, to 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea.

Errata—Add to Roll.

Mrs. E. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge (Jan., 1911).

New Members Elected.

J. Alex. Henderson, Cassland, Springwell Road, Tonbridge.
J. Jardine, Castle Inilk, Lockerbie, N.B.
J. S. Fry, Cobo, Guernsey.
Baronne Le Clement de Taintegnies, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset.
W. J C. Frost, 13 Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick Park, London, W.
Chas. Armstrong; The Grove, Cambridge.
H. Jenks, 54, Ebury Street, London, S.W.

Proposed for Election as Members.

L. M. Wade, Oakhill Road, Ashtead, Surrey.
Miss Emma Lucas, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex.
By the Hon. Editor.

W. J. Norwood Ryan, St. John's, Beaufort Road, Kingston-on-Thames
By Hugh Whistler, I.P.

Regulations as to Club Medals and Cup.

Made by the Show Committee of the Council.

1.—All Medals shall be given for the Best Bird.

2.—Members exhibiting at Shows where Club Medals are given, *must* place the initials "F.B.C." after each entry on the entry form, and request the Secretary to insert the same in the Show Catalogue.

3.—No member shall win more than two Medals in one season—one silver and one bronze—or more than one Medal at the same Show.

4.—No Medal shall be given at any Show, unless the Classification and the name of the Judge be first submitted to and approved by the Committee. Preference shall be given to Shows at which the Club's Classification is adopted and one of the Club's Judges appointed.

5.—No Medal shall be given at any Show, where less than three Classes for Foreign Birds are provided, and no Silver Medal where less than six Classes. The Show Committee reserve the right of waiving this number at their discretion.

6.—Medals given at OPEN SHOWS only. Birds in Members' Classes shall not compete.

7.—The London Silver Cup will be offered for competition at any show held in London Postal District, having our patronage where ten or more classes are given.

(*a*) The Provincial Silver Cup will be offered for Competition at any Provincial Show having our patronage where six or more classes are given.

8.—The Cups are to be won three times (not necessarily in succession), before becoming the property of the winner, and to be given for most points gained by a member throughout the season at Shows where Cups are offered for competition.

9.—Members competing for the Cup must nominate not more than three birds, by writing the word "Cup" after each competing bird. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified for that Show, and only birds in the money will count for points.

10.—No Medal or Cup shall be awarded at any Show unless at least three members compete, and points for the Cup will not be counted, if more than one class is cancelled.

11.—Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 6 points; 2nd, 5 points; and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place the member taking the most prize money to win the special.

12.—Any point arising that is not provided for in the above will be dealt with by the Show Committee.

S. M. TOWNSEND.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Shows. Other Shows receiving same will be announced later.

The Show Committee wish to point out to Members that by supporting the Shows advertised in the Magazine, they are helping the Club, as all advertisements are paid for, and the Shows advertised are in every way deserving of support. Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is impossible for a secretary who does not know anything about our membership, to give a complete list to the judge otherwise.

Clapham. October 8th and 9th. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge: Mr. J. Frostick. Schedules from Mr. T. J. Hose, 5 Wells Crescent Camberwell, E.C. I hear from the Secretary of the Clapham Show that they are going to have over two hundred South African birds on view, specially brought over for that purpose. These birds will be for sale, and any remaining at the close of the Show will be sold by auction, so the Show will be well worth a visit for these alone.

Manchester. October 24th and 25th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal, and one Provincial Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. J. Bestwick. Schedules from Mr. H. Boothman, 10 Parker Street, Levenshulme, Manchester.

As errors often creep into schedules, the Medal and Cup Rules, under which awards are made are given in this issue.

S. M. TOWNSEND,

Honorary Exhibitional Secretary.

3, Swift Street,
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FOR SALE: Pairs Rosellas, 30s.; Bronze-wing Doves, 40s.; Egyptian Geese, 25s.; Californian Quail, 15s. All bred here this season.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Red-headed Cardinal, 5s. 6d.; Young Hen Zebra Finch, 4s., both out-doors.—Lady Malden, Great Bookham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Black and Orange Hang-nest, perfect, 27s. 6d.; Good Pair Sugar-birds, 21s.; or Exchange for small Parrakeets.—A. Smyth, 40, Davenport Road, Catford, S.E.

WANTED: Young or Adult Black-cheeked Love-Birds.—W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast.

FOR SALE: Pair Ring-necked Parrakeets, 15s.; ♂ Moustache Parrakeet, 10s.; ♀ African Ring-necked Dove, 10s. From out-door aviary.—Dyott, Freeford, Lichfield.

FOR SALE: "Bird Notes," 1910 (March missing), 1911, 1912, 1913. Best offer. Also excellent home-made dog kennel for Terrier; entrance passage, glass window and sleeping box; excellent condition; half-inch match boarding; 10s.—Marriner, Denton, Ben Rydding.

WANTED: Hen Diamond Sparrow from garden aviary. FOR SALE: Cock and two hens Brown-backed Robins; been in outdoor aviary three months; 6 guineas, or exchange for Sugarbirds or Sunbirds.—Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Roller Canaries, lovely songsters 6s. each; carriage and cage free.—Miss Jackson, Cowhill, Rutland Road, Harrogate, Yorks.

FOR SALE: A true pair Orange-flanked Parrakeets (*Brotogerys pyrrhopterus*), thoroughly acclimatized; very tame; excellent condition; price 4 guineas.—Wright, Westholme, Sandal, Wakefield.

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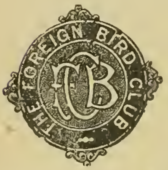
FOR SALE: About 20 African Doves and Pigeons for sale, Emeralds, Senegals, cock Capes, and Triangular-spotted Pigeons; Masked Grassfinches 20s. pair; Black Gouldians 30s.; one Long-tail Grass 12s.; Cock Melba Finches 25s.; Tri-colour Tanagers 20s. each; Red-rumped Casiques 25s. each; cock Peach-faced Lovebirds 60s. each.—Yealland, Binstead, Isle of Wight.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised show specimens—Purple-capped Lories, magnificent pair, £5 5s.; Japanese Robin, certain winner, £6; Pekin Robins, cage-moulted, true pair, 15s.; Purple Sugarbird, finest living, 60s.; Indian Shamas 50s. and 60s.; Golden-fronted Green Honeysucker 50s.; Silver-blue Tanager 25s.; Blue-throated Warbler, cage-moulted, 30s.; Pied Flycatcher 35s.; Black Redstart 50s.; Blackcap 10s. 6d.; Pure White Blackbird £5; Blackbird, winner, 42s.; rare Bar-shouldered Doves 35s. pair, guaranteed breeding pair 60s.; Harlequin Doves 10s. 6d. pair; Gouldian Finches, black cock, red hen, 42s. pair; Rufous-tailed Grassfinches 30s. pair; Rufous-necked Weavers 15s. pair; Insectivorous Birds' Food 1s. 10d. lb., free); Harmsworth's Natural History, 3 vols. 25s.; Cassell's Book of Birds, 4 vols. 20s.; Cassell's Book of Cage Birds 21s.; Bechstein's Cage Birds 2s. 6d.; ditto with Sweets Warblers 5s. 6d.; Gedney's Foreign Cage Birds, 2 vols. 15s.; Vol. 1., *Bird Notes*, 20s.; all out of print, scarce; new condition.—John Frostick, 137, Endlesham Road, Balham.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE: Fine large pair of Rosella Parrakeets, have reared six young in aviary last two years; sell 50s., or exchange Aviary-bred Gouldian Finches.—H. Gloyns, Kew Cottage, Holmesdale Road, Hampton Wick, Middx.



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Mexican Blue Thrushes (*Melanotis caerulescens*), Red-legged Cuba Thrushes, Black Grosbeaks (*Melopyrrha nigra*), Giant Grossbeaks (*Sporophila falcirostris*), Black-headed Grossbeaks (*Zamelodia abellei*), White-throated Grosbeaks, Red-shouldered Starlings (*Agelaceus humerales*), Black Tanagers (*Tachyphonus melanoleucus*), Black-headed Sibia (*Timalia capistrata*), Yellow-vented or White-cheeked Bulbuls (*Pycononotus leucotis*), Trogons (*Prionitis*) from Cuba, Golden-fronted Fruitsuckers (*Phyllornis aurifrons*), Indian Crown-bellied Nuthatches, Indian Clack Cuckoos, Shamas (in full song), Cuban Finches, Indian Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Nepal Woodpeckers, Mexican Quails, Black Vulture Urulu, Pondickery Vulture, Chukar Partridges, Triangular spotted Pigeons, Victoria Crown Pigeons (*Goura Victoriæ*), Cape and Scaly Doves, Demoiselle Cranes, Sarus Cranes, Egyptian Flamingoes, Herons (*Ardea plumbea*), Whooper Swans, Black Swans, Bewick's Swans, Bahama Ducks, Blue-winged Teals, Chilian Teals, Chilian Pintails, Chilian Wigeons, Japanese Teals, Mandarin Ducks, Carolina Ducks. Redheaded Pochards, Bernicle Geese, Nandous, Marabous, etc., etc.

ATTENTION! NEW ARRIVALS:—

Violet-eared Finches.
Quail-finches,
Red-headed Finches (*Sporophila erythrocephala*).
Blue Finches (*Estrilda erythronotos*).
Scale-headed Finches (*Sporopipes lepidopherus*), Longtailed
Long-tailed Whydah-birds (*Penthetria caffra*),
Niobe Whydah-birds (*Penthetria ardent*),
and many other
SOUTH AFRICAN BIRDS.

PRICE-LIST FREE ON APPLICATION.

OCTOBER, 1913

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

CLUB MEDALS: It would appear that the following are entitled to medals:—

SPECIES.—Great Tit (*Parus major*), Dr. M. Amsler.
,, Lineolated Parrakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineolata*), Miss M. E. Baker.
HYBRIDS.—Giant Nigerian x Short-winged Weaver. W. Shore Baily.
,, Blue-breasted Waxbill x Cordon Bleu. Dr. M. Amsler.

The Grey Waxbill was bred by Lady Dunleath some years ago, details in next issue.

If any Member knows of any authentic record of any of the above having been reared in this country, it is requested that details may be sent to either the Editor or Secretary without delay—otherwise medals will be awarded in due course.

ILLUSTRATION FUND: Help is still required to keep this interesting feature of the Club Journal going.

WESLEY T. PAGE, Hon. Editor.
S. WILLIAMS, Hon. Business Sec. & Treas.

* * *

Changes and Corrections of Addresses

Miss A. F. Hall; to 26 Adelaide Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W. and Denholme, Hayling Island, Havant.
Lieut. F. M. Littledale; to The Bungalow, Havant Road, Emsworth.
Miss Greven; to c/o Mrs. Y. T. Green, 41 Clauricarde Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.
Douglas R. Urwick; to St. Cross Mill, Winchester.
J. Sumner Marriner; to c/o Mrs. Marriner; Bay View, Koksilah Post Office, Vancouver Island, B.C.
J. Frostick, to 50, Boundaries Road, Balham, London, S.W.
Major B. R. Horsbrugh; to Tandridge Priory, Oxted, Surrey.

* * *

New Members Elected.

L. M. Wade, Oakhill Road, Ashtead, Surrey.
Miss Emma Lucas, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex.
W. J. Norwood Ryan, St. John's, Beaufort Road, Kingston-on-Thames

Proposed for Election as Members.

Lawrence H.F., Pullar; Dumbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. *By Miss M. Drummond.*

C. C. Lynam, M.A., Bardswell Road, Oxford *By E. Hopkinson, M.A., M.B., D.S.O.*

O'Donnell; Maj.-Gen. H., C.B., D.S.O., Banu, N.W.F.P., India. *By O. O'Donnell.*

Dr. F. Fowler-Ward; 40 Berners Street, Ipswich. *By B. Hamilton Scott.*

Dr. Evelyn C. Sprawson, 68, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, N. *By J. Frostick.*

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to the following Shows, in addition to those already announced. Members are reminded that they must write the word "Cup" on the entry form, after the name of each entry of the three birds they wish to nominate for competition, and that they must put F.B.C. after each of their entries.

PORTSMOUTH: October 22nd and 23rd. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge: Mr. J. Robson. Schedules from Messrs. Joiner and Hall, 80, Stubbington Avenue, North End, Portsmouth.

CARLISLE: October 29th and 30th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. J. Robson. Schedules from Mr. J. C. Bell, 23, Botchergate, Carlisle.

SHEFFIELD (Cutlers' Hall): November 7th and 8th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. C. Houlton. Schedules from Mr. E. C. Job Wincobank, Sheffield.

NOTTINGHAM: November 14th and 15th. Classification for seven classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. C. Houlton. Schedules from Mr. J. G. Royce, 29, Tennyson Street, Nottingham.

L.C.B.A. ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL: November 27th 28th, and 29th. Classification for thirty classes for Foreign Birds. Three Silver and three Bronze Medals, and London Cup for competition. Judges: Mr. D. Seth Smith, and another. Schedules from Mr. James Bray, jun., 67, St. Dunstan's Road, Hammersmith, W.

The Show Committee wish to call attention to the very extensive Classification which is being given by the L.C.B.A. this year. A classification for twenty-eight classes has already been published in the Magazine. Since then a class has been provided for Gouldian Finches only, and another for small insectivorous birds, making a total of thirty classes. The entries close on November 18th. The Show Committee take the present opportunity of asking those members who may exhibit birds, to send as many entries as they can.

Full prize money is guaranteed and it depends on the amount of support given by Exhibitors whether this extensive classification shall be repeated annually.

The Show will be open November 27th, at 2 o'clock. I shall be very glad to hear from any Member who will contribute to a Members' prize fund.

S. M. TOWNSEND.
Hon: Show Secretary.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

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MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

WANTED: Guaranteed Cock Black-cheeked Lovebird. FOR SALE: guaranteed pairs Red-crested Cardinals, 15s.; Pelzeln's Saffron Finches; Cutthroats, 5s. 6d., also hen Pekin Robin, 3s. 6d. —Capt. Reeve, Leadenham Hose,u Lincoln.

WANTED: A pair each of Parrot Finches, and Hooded Siskins, also a Hen Diamond Sparrow.—Sich, East Hoathly, Sussex, Station, Uckfield.

FOR SALE: Thoroughly acclimatised—approval. Pairs: Saffron Finches, 7s. 6d. (4s. each); Zebra Finches, 5s.; Cockatiels, 10s. 6d., with young one, 12s. 6d.; Budgerigars, 4s. 6d. (2s. 6d. each). Cocks: Golden Pheasants, 10s. 6d.; Black-capped Weaver, 5s. 6d.; Bocage's Weaver, 7s. 6d., Cape Sparrow (hen), 2s. 6d.; Tame Plover, 3s. 6d.; Canaries, splendid songsters, 7s. 6d. One pair each Zebra and Saffron Finches, Cockatiels, Budgerigars and Canaries 28s. 6d. lot. EXCHANGE Parrot and Cuban Finches or Sell 60s. and 12s. each. Pure white Samoyede puppies, 2 months: By "Winhipop" (winner of 6 firsts)—Arctic Belle.—Rattigan, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.

WANTED: A Hen Blue Mountain Lorikeet. Also to EXCHANGE aviray-bred Red-rump Parrakeet, for a hen.—Money, The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, London, N.

FOR SALE—PARROT CAGES: Various sizes to suit all species, suitable for Sitting- or Drawing- rooms, or Exhibition; particulars with pleasure.—Mrs. Miller, 27, Belgrave Road, London, S. W.

WANTED: Parrakeets for prompt cash; Mealy Rosellas, Blue-bonnets. Many-coloured, Barnard's, Port Lincoln, and Brown's; good condition.—Money, The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, London, N.

WFOR SALE: Maroon Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Silver-eared Mesias, Blue-winged Siva, Brown-winged Blue Grosbeak, Purple-backed Thrush, and Red-headed Cardinal. All well known winners. —J. H. Harrison, The Crescent, Lytham, Lancs.

FOR SALE: Rare African Finches, privately imported; Dufresne's Waxbills, pair, 50s.; Quail Finch, cock, 35s.; 3 Ruddy Waxbills 50s.; Blue-breasted Waxbills 25s. pair; Red-headed Finches 25s. pair; St. Helena Waxbills, Golden-breasted Waxbills 5s. 6d. pair; Orange and Napoleon Weavers, full colour, 10s. 6d. pair; Gouldian Finches, black cock, red hen, 42s. pair; Bar-shouldered Doves 40s. pair; Harlequin Doves 10s. 6d. pair; Grand Eclectus hen £4; Purple-capped Lories £5 10s., true pair; Crimson Lory, exceptionally fine, £3; Malaccan Pink-cheeked Parrakeet, very scarce, 50s.; Japanese Redbreast, very rare, £6; Purple Sugarbird £3; Golden-fronted Green Fruitsucker 50s.: Indian Shamas 50s. and 60s.; Silver-blue Tanager 25s.; Blue-throated Warbler 30s.; Black Redstart 50s.; Pure White Blackbird £5; Special Insectivorous Birds' Food 1s. 10d. lb., free.—John Frostick, 50, Boundaries Road, Balham.

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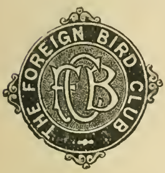
FOR SALE: Pair Adult Rosella Parrakeets, splendid condition, 55s.; Pair Red-rump Parrakeets 35s.; Pair Cockateels and one young 16s.; White Java Sparrows, etc.—Mrs. Read, Bury Rectory, Ramsey, Hunts.

FOR SALE: Aviary pairs, very rare Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches £6; also very rare Brown-backed Robins £6; Aviary bred Cuban Finches, unrelated pairs 35s.; and Silverbills 3s. 6d.; Following had eggs: Bengalese 5s.; Bronze-wings 4s.; Jacarini Finches 22s. 6d. per pair. Hens: Pink-browed Rosefinch 20s.; Black-headed Gouldian 25s.—Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey.



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Mexican Tree Quails; Chukar Partridges; White Peacocks; Demoiselle Cranes; Crown Cranes; White Swans; Black Swans; Black-necked Swans; Bewick's Swans; Canadian Geese; Brent Geese; Hand-reared and pinioned Fulvous Tree Ducks; Bahama Ducks; Carolina Ducks; Mandarin Ducks; White-eyed Ducks; Rosy-billed Ducks; Whistling Red-headed Pochards; Ruddy Sheldrakes; Blue-winged Teals (*Nettium torquatum*); Red-shouldered Teals; Chilian Teals; Chilian Pintails; Chilian Wigeons.

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To Foreign Bird Club Members.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL: In accordance with Rule 5, Miss Miss R. Little, Mrs. Anningson, and J. H. Harrison, retire on December 31st next, but, are eligible for re-election. If there are any Members willing to serve on the Council will they kindly send in their names at once, so that in the event of an election, voting papers may be distributed with December issue of "Bird Notes."

WINTER MEETINGS: Arrangements as to these have not yet been completed, but we hope to be able to announce dates, etc., in our next issue.

L.C.B.A. SHOW: We regret that by a printer's error this was announced as being held at the Agricultural Hall, it will be held, as usual, at the HORTICULTURAL HALL, St. Vincent's Square, Westminster, S.W.

RINGING WILD BIRDS: The Editor of "British Birds" asks us to state that readers of this Magazine have now ringed over 32,000 birds in connection with the study of birds. Should ringed birds ever come into the hands of our members, will they kindly notify the Editor of "British Birds," Mr. F. Witherby, 326, High Holborn, London, W.C., at once, stating name on ring, number; also date and place where the bird was found.

THE CLUB JOURNAL: The next issue will complete another volume, and, so that the new volume may be worthy its predecessors the Hon. Editor desires copy, re Recent Acquisitions; Aviary Descriptions; Aviary Episodes in General; Season's Results; Articles on Special Features of Aviculture; Sexing Birds and similar problems; Life Histories of Species under conditions of Aviary Life, also Life Histories of Species in their native wilds, from members residing abroad. In fact articles on any and every feature of aviculture. The Hon. Editor asks all Members not to be merely bird collectors and keepers, but to closely study the occupants of their aviaries and to record their observations in "Bird Notes." He would also remind Members that Illustrations enhance the value of all articles, but, that these greatly swell the cost of the Magazine, and that they can only be kept up by members' subscribing generously to the Illustration Fund.

THE ROLL: Good progress has been made during the year, but we would once more urge all Members to make the Foreign Bird Club and its Journal known to all keepers of birds, whether of British or Foreign species, and that there can be no better time than the closing up of one year and the beginning of another, for a united and determined effort to materially increase our numbers. The Hon. Secretaries will have much pleasure in sending specimen copies, etc., to any addresses sent, in the name of the sender of such.

WESLEY T. PAGE, Hon. Editor.
S. WILLIAMS, Hon. Business Sec. & Treas.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules (See Page iii of Cover.)

Chlorōpsis Aurifrons (♀). (Mrs. Connell, Brockenhurst). The cause of death was pneumonia.

Stanley Parrakeet (♂) (W. H. Firth, Ilkeston). Cause of death was pneumonia.

Snow Bunting (♂). (Mrs. Sproston, Nantwich). The bird was too fat. The cause of death was syncope. I have no connection with "Cage Birds." *Vide* Rules of the Foreign Bird Club.

Bronze-wing Mannikin (♀). (Miss D. E. Pithie, Southsea). Cause of death, pneumonia. Very common in newly purchased birds.

Pintail Nonpariel Finches (pair). (Mrs. E. Travis, Stourbridge). The cause of death was pneumonia in both instances.

Pintail Nonpariel (♂). (M. R. Tomlinson, Midlothian). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Pennant's Parrakeet. (Hugh Goodacre, Lutterworth). Cause of death, enteritis, following on catarrh.

Crimson-cheek Waxbill (J. Alex. Henderson, Tonbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Combassous (pair). (W. Shore Bailey, Wilts). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Tricoloured Tanager (♂). (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia. Redstart (♂), cause of death enteritis. Gouldian Finch (♀), cause of death, pneumonia, both lungs; and jaundice.

Answered by post:—Miss E. F. Chawner, W. H. Firth, Lady Kathleen Pilkington.

Sometimes the packages do not arrive at their proper destination, and therefore cannot be answered.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Illustration and Deficit Fund.

The Council gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Barnaby, Miss	1	1	0
Clare, Miss L.	1	0	0
Eccles, Miss	0	5	0
Goodacre, H.	0	10	0
Grossmith, J. L.	1	1	0
Hartley, Mrs. E. A. H.	1	10	0
Hawke, Hon. Mary C.	0	10	0
Jackson, Miss Maxwell	0	6	0
Malden, Lady	0	4	8
Mitchell, H.	1	1	0
Perkins, C. (Overpaid sub.)	0	1	0
Pithie, Miss D. E.	0	5	0
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Smith-Ryland, Mrs. (Over-paid sub.)	0	1	0
Somerset-Ward, Mrs.	0	10	0
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Temple, W. R.	1	1	0
Teschemaker, W. E. (Medal Fund)	0	6	0
Thwaites, Dr. G. B.	0	10	0
Thornton, Miss	0	5	0
Turner-Turner, Mrs.	1	0	0
Wait, Miss St. A.	3	3	0
Wrottesley, Hon. W.	1	0	0

Changes and Corrections of Addresses

Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., to South Bank, Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa.

W. H. Firth, to 1, Agnes Road, Northampton.

Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S., to 2/4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India.

Lieut. F. M. Littledale, to 27 Duncan Road, Southsea.

Miss A. Travers to Mrs. Johnson Travers, Fern Hill, Clonakilty, Co Cork.

A. Sutcliffe, Fairholme, Welholme Road, Grimsby.

New Members Elected.

Lawrence H.F., Pullar; Dumbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire.

C. C. Lynam, M.A., Bardswell Road, Oxford

O'Donnell, Maj.-Gen. H., C.B., D.S.O., Bannu, N.W.F.P., India.

Dr. F. Fowler-Ward; 40 Berners Street, Ipswich.
Dr. Evelyn C. Sprawson, 68, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, N.

Proposed for Election as Members.

G. E. Ryan, (Bar.-at-law), Hintlesham Hall, Suffolk.
By O. O Donnell.

Mrs. Amy J. Dickens, Julian Hill, Weybridge, Surrey.
By G. Mortimer Kelson.

Mrs. Grey, Quarryhill, Hendon, London, N.W.
By the Hon. W. Wrottesley.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to Gateshead and the following Shows, in addition to those already announced. Members are reminded that they must write the word "Cup" on the entry form, after each of the three birds they wish to nominate for competition, and that they must put F.B.C. after each of their entries. I particularly want to ask members who find that either "F.B.C." or "Cup" has been omitted from the catalogue after they have put it on their entry form, to notify me at once.

BRADFORD. December 5th, 6th, and 8th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. Frank Finn. Schedules from Mr. H. Hill, 15, Settle Terrace, Thornton Lane, Little Horton, Bradford.

LUTON. December 10th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge, Mr. J. Frostick. Schedules from Mr. E. Bloomfield, 22, Hitchin Road, Luton.

EDINBURGH. Scottish National Show. December 31st and January 1st, 1914. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for Competition. Judge, Mr. L. I. Arrighi. Schedules from Mr. J. R. Meikle, 22 Brougham street, Edinburgh.

The Show Committee wish to thank Miss A. B. Smyth for her donation of 5s., and Mr. A. Ezra for his of £1 1s. towards the Members' Special Prize Fund. They are allotted as follows: but only the first appears in the L.C.B.A. Schedule, as the others were received too late. 2s. 6d. for the Best Bird shown by a Member not winning a money prize in Class 191. 2s. 6d. for the

Best Bird shown by a Member not winning a money prize in Class 193. 10s. 6d. for the Best Sugarbird, shown by a Member. 10s. 6d. for the Best Fruitsucker or Zosterop, shown by a Member.

I greatly regret that owing to a printer's error the L.C.B.A. Show was announced last month to take place at the "Agricultural" instead of the "Horticultural" Hall. I hope, however, that this Show is too well known for the mistake to have caused any confusion, and that Members will turn up in force, both as exhibitors and visitors, as it may be the only London Show at which the F.B.C. is represented this season.

S. M. TOWNSEND.
Hon. Exhibitional Secretary.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

◆

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month. Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d. Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

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MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE—PARROT CAGES: Various sizes to suit all species, suitable for Sitting- or Drawing-rooms, or Exhibition; particulars with pleasure.—Mrs. Miller, 27, Belgrave Road, London, S. W.

FOR SALE: Roller Canaries, lovely Songsters, 6s. each; carriage and cage free.—Miss Jackson, Cowhill, Rutland Road, Harrogate, Yorks.

FOR SALE: Pairs Diamond Doves, 30s.; Gouldian Finches, 25s.; Olive and Cuban Finches, 20s.; all bred here this summer.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

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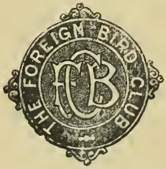

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DECEMBER, 1913

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL: No candidates having come forward or been nominated for the Council, of the retiring members, Mrs. C. Anningson has been re-elected. Miss C. R. Little and Mr. J. H. Harrison have resigned, the former owing to lack of time and the latter to giving up his birds. The Rev. G. H. Raynor and Mr. W. A. Bainbridge have kindly consented to fill the vacancies, and there being no other candidate, are duly elected.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS (Winter Session): The first of these will take place on Saturday, January 17th, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, when Mr. Ogilive-Grant has kindly consented to have the skins of the Weaver Group on display in the Bird Room. This will be a good opportunity of getting doubtful species properly identified if such are brought in travelling cages. The *rendezvous* will be the Entrance Hall of the Museum, at 2-15 p.m. If desired, Members can teake tea together in the Museum.

WESLEY T. PAGE, Hon. Editor.

S. WILLIAMS, Hon. Business Sec. & Treas.

Changes and Corrections of Addresses

H. D. Astley, M.A., to Brinsop Court, Hereford.
C. P. Arthur, Hillcrest, Melksham, Wilts.
Rev. Beazor to 12 Hoyse Drive, The Park, Nottingham.

New Members Elected.

Mrs. Grey, Quarryhill, Hendon, London, N.W.
Mrs. Amy J. Dickens, Julian Hill, Weybridge, Surrey.
G. E. Ryan, (Bar.-at-law), Hintlesham Hall, Suffolk.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Peter Arnott; 37a.. Grange Road, Alloa.
C. E. Dell; 12 High Street, Harlesden, London, N.W.
Mrs. E. Warren Vernon, Lamancha House, Lamancha, Peebleshire.
By the Hon. Editor.
Mrs. M. H. Davies, Daresbury Hall, Nr. Warrington.
By S. M. Townsend.
Lady Yale; Hanstead House, Bricket Wood, Herts.
By the Hon. Mary C. Hawke.
John McCullough, Fairyhill, Cranmore Park, Belfast.
By W. H. Workman.

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The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to the following Show, in addition to those already announced. Members are reminded that they must write the word "Cup" on the entry form, after each of the three birds they wish to nominate for competition and that they must put F.B.C. after each of their entries.

EDINBURGH. Scottish National Show, December 31st, and January 1st. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for Competition. Judge: Mr. L. I. Arrighi. Schedules from Mr. J. R. Meikle, 22 Brougham Street, Edinburgh.

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FOR SALE: Cock Red-backed Amazon Parrot, been in out-door heated aviary for two years, in perfect plumage. Young Cock Cockatiels from out-door, unheated aviary. Four White Swan Cygnets. Palm Dove, sex unknown; also Cocks and Hens Hartz Mountain Canaries, from out-door, heated aviary.—Apply, Mrs. Lee, Hartwell House, Aylesbury.

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WANTED: Two cock Bleeding-heart Pigeons, or would exchange one Hen for Cock. Also one Hen Cuban Quail, and Pairs of other hardy Quails.—Mrs. Lee, Hartwell House, Aylesbury.

WANTED: Cock Cape Dove and guaranteed cock Black-cheeked Lovebird, must be from out of doors. FOR SALE: Pairs, Red-crested Cardinals, perfect, 15s.; Cutthroats, 6s.; Zebra Finches 7s. 6d.; hen Pekin Robin 3s.; hen Pectoral Finch, to exchange for cock (all except Pekin out of doors).—Capt. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

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Edited by WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

JANUARY, 1913.

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FEBRUARY, 1913.

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Edited by WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

JULY, 1913.

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